

Massachusetts Rifle Association

Walnut Hill

1875

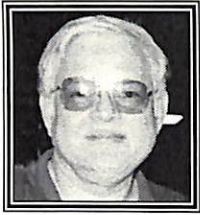


The Legacy of Walnut Hill

By Robert Summa

Volume 9

The Legend
of
C.W. Hinman



Welcome to the Walnut Hill Legacy

We have a rich history we will share as you read this book. We will look at the past and the all-time greats that left their mark on the history of Walnut Hill: the masters of rifle shooting and pistol shooting. They generated the spirit of the Hill through competitive shooting. What they built and shot was a challenge. They were the distinguished shooters of the Hill. They came from all over the country to shoot at

Walnut Hill. We have Harry Pope, the greatest barrel maker of his time and a master rifle shooter. We have Niedner, an all-time great, a master rifle shooter, and one of the top gunsmiths of his time who chased Geronamo all over the southwest in the 6th Calvary. Then there is Dr. Mann, the father of ballistics, who in 1909 published *The Bullet's Flight* in his quest for the magic bullet and the magic barrel for the perfect score with the perfect rifle. He was a medical doctor and gave up his practice for his quest in ballistics. Then there are D. L. F. Chase, Ned Roberts, Horace Warner, H. V. Perry, Norman Brockway, C. W. Rowland, H. L. Willard, E. A. Leopold, W. V. Lowe, the Russell brothers, Arthur Corbin Gould, N. C. Nash, F. J. Rabbeth, Mrs. Eugene Patridge, O. E. Gerrish, John Kelley, Will Hayes, Dr. W. G. Hudson, the great offhand shot Adolph Strecker, Dr. Bakery, L. P. Hansen, Young, Mr. Fry, Daniel Fox, Major Hinman, and Professor Bell. All are the masters of the rifle. The masters of pistol are at Walnut Hill C. Paine, the Bennetts, Tom Anderton, Mr. Eugene Patridge, and Dorothy Knight. The riflemen of the Hill, having looked at the American militia team's defeat at Creedmoor, decided to do something about it, so they trained a militia rifle team. Some were members of Walnut Hill and knew the game of long range shooting, and were sent to Creedmoor where they won every event entered. The Walnut Hill riflemen were men of stature: doctors, engineers, and masters of their trade. They were men that enjoyed the shooting sport and did all they could to preserve it for the future generations to come. They shot offhand at ranges of 600, 800, 900, and 1000 yards, holding the finest rifles of their day. H. Pope was the father of the gane twist rifle barrel. Pope and Niedner made barrels for Dr. Mann. We will cover the history of the Dr. Mann barrels in this series of books. The Chase rifles (H. Pope and Niedner experimental rifle) we have, in the Museum. The M.R.A. is a time machine; we can travel back and meet the visionaries of their time to understand the myth and legends of the Walnut Hill riflemen, for the men and women that have walked through the doors of M.R.A. represent the finest part of the shooting sport. You can feel their spirits watching you today when you're on the ranges shooting, for they have left the future generations and the world a legacy of the shooting sport, right here at the M.R.A. Walnut Hill Museum. We have concentrated mostly on these men and women who have captured our imaginations as greater-than-life-size leaders in the shooting sport. We all are historians; we must look at the legacy they have left for the future. As I've said before, we will share the vast history of Walnut Hill with the world. The idea of this series of volumes is to record the outstanding history of the Hill for future generations. All proceeds from the selling of these books will go to the Massachusetts Rifle Association to preserve the history of the M.R.A. through our Museum. If you can help, I thank you. I am looking for old photos of Walnut Hill to share with our membership. The one thing I have learned about history: if someone does not record it, it is lost for all time. But these books will present a vast history which we will share with the world. As you read and look at all the photos, know the books will be a treasure for future generations after we have all come and gone. The books detail the Legacy of Walnut Hill. And we will only print 100 books in each series, for this is truly a limited edition!

Robert Summa
M.R.A. Historian at the Walnut Hill Range

COPYRIGHT 1999-2001 ©
M.R.A. PUBLISHING
ROBERT SUMMA
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

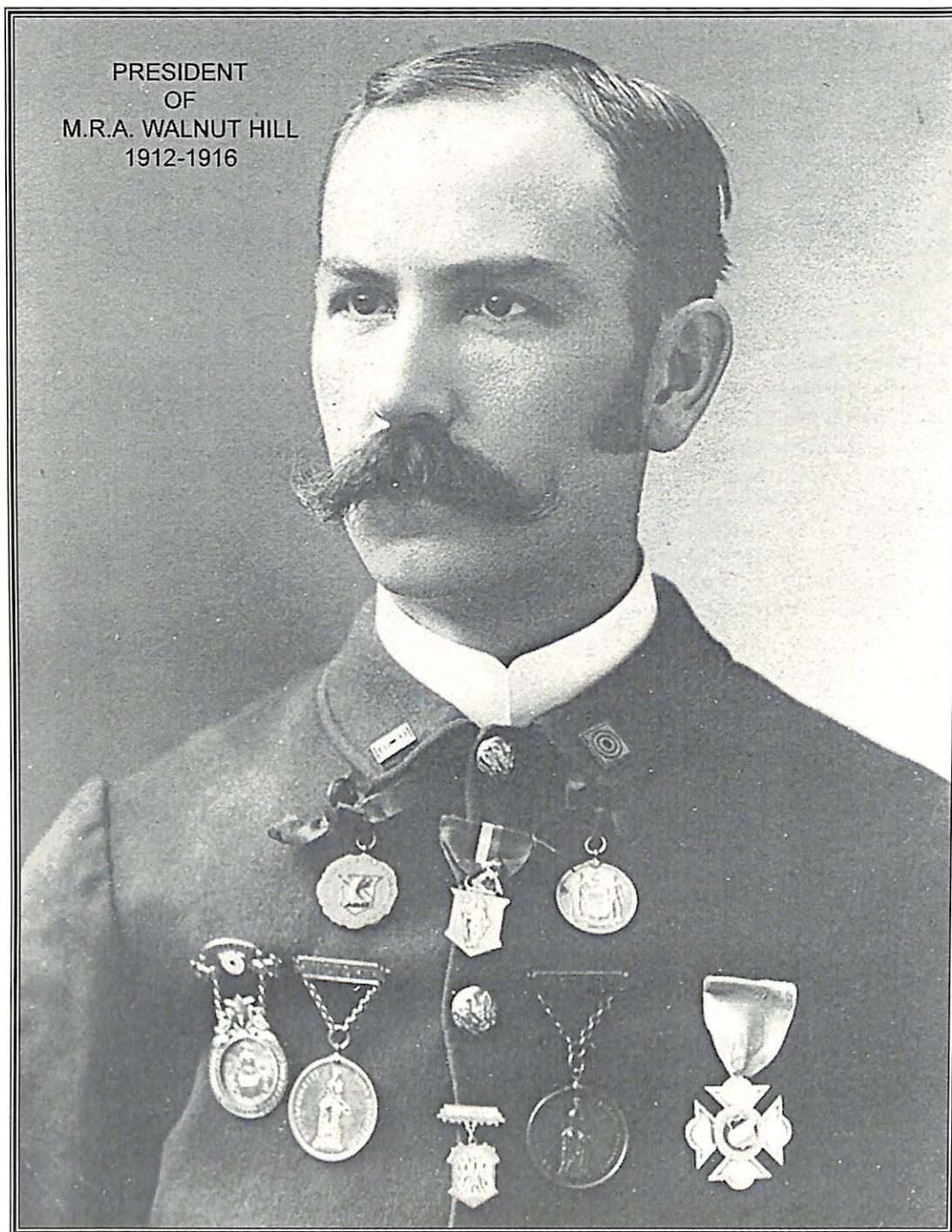
The Massachusetts Rifle Association

The Legend of C.W. Hinman

I dedicate this book to

American Single Shot Rifle News
and
Nicholas R. Summa
and
Alicia Summa

C.W. Hinman



Major Charles W. Hinman

The September 1886 issue of *The Rifle* carried the following account of Major Charles W. Hinman's rifle shooting: "Major Charles W. Hinman is one of the few American riflemen who have shot at home and abroad, and who have won the highest prizes in England and America; and doubtless the present sketch will be read with interest by many who have wished to learn the particulars of his many brilliant victories and records. Major Hinman was born in the state of Vermont; he is now 37 years of age, has dark hazel eyes, dark hair, and weighs 155 pounds. He has no superfluous flesh, but is strongly and compactly built, possessing considerable strength and years of abstemious living and freedom from excesses, which contribute so much toward making a fine rifle-shot. (See page 36.) His first experience in rifle shooting on the range was at Walnut Hill in 1879, commencing about the time Mr. E.F. Richardson did. The first score he recorded counted 43 out of 50 on the Creedmoor target, and the first prize was finally won by him in the class in which he shot. By the autumn of 1879, he had increased his proficiency wonderfully and had recorded a 48 out of a possible 50 on the Creedmoor target. Almost from his first attempt he advanced to the front rank of the experts and has retained his position. His early attempts at off-hand rifle shooting were with a Kirkwood 40-caliber rifle. This arm was intended for a short and mid-range gun; it was chambered for a bottle-necked shell, in which he could increase or decrease his powder charge according to the range. With this arm he recorded many brilliant scores from 200 to 600 yards, among them perfect 5-shot and 7-shot scores, and one perfect score of ten consecutive bullseyes which was made at a time when clean scores at offhand were considered just within the possibilities and the securing of one was chronicled in the daily press with large headings and described as the acme of perfection in marksmanship.

"The portability of the Maynard rifle attracted Mr. Hinman's attention, and as the barrel of this arm could be easily detached and the rifle packed in a trunk of very small compass, he laid aside his Kirkwood rifle and adopted the Maynard. He first chose a 40-caliber barrel and later a 35-caliber, and the arm was made up according to his ideas of correctness. No Swiss but plates are allowed on any of his rifles; the barrel must be round and not octagon or half-octagon; in place of the thick everlasting shell, a thin solid-head Remington shell is used which, in his 35-caliber barrels, are chambered for holding 60 grains of powder. He has for years made all of his own bullets for offhand shooting. In loading, he generally uses but one shell, which he fills heaping full from a flask, settles it a

bit by tapping, and seats the bullet in the shell about 1/16-inch; he considers this method gives as good results as any other, and avoids the risk of shooting without a bullet. A bullet weighing 330 grains was formerly used, but recently he adopted one weighing 250 grains, which is cast by himself and used unswaged. Besides moulding the bullets, he constructs all of his moulds and various appurtenances connected with his shooting kit. He uses a ring or aperture front sight and the usual Vernier rear. Some years ago, he shot with his left arm a little nearer the rear end of the stock, but each year he seems to extend his left arm farther towards the muzzle. He has tried the hip-rest position and made high scores, but shot only a few times in this position as he prefers the one with the arm extended. The rifle is seldom taken from the shoulder for a second aim, and he takes a quick but careful aim and fires. *(See pages 27, 34, and 35.)*

"Among his many victories at short range offhand with a match rifle, are the following: In 1880 he attended the first Seabury tournament at Creedmoor, a large portion of the best offhand shots in the country being present, attracted by the offer of \$300 in cash and some valuable medals for prizes. There were between 200 and 300 contestants in this match. Major Hinman won the first prize on two scores of 34 out of a possible 35, the conditions being Creedmoor target, seven shot to each scores, two scores to count, 200 yards offhand. In tournament with a match rifle he has taken the first prize five times—once at Creedmoor, one at Medford, Mass., once at Wakefield, Mass., and twice at Manchester, N.H. In contests he can safely be reckoned on as the leading man or near the top. In one team match where conditions were 20-shots to a man, the last 11 shots he fired were bullseyes; at Wakefield, Mass., in a re-entry match at 200 yards offhand, he entered ten times, the scores being 7 shots, possible 35, Creedmoor target. Out of the ten entries he recorded three perfect scores, making an aggregate of 105 out of a possible of 105, which won the match.

"The success met with at the short ranges (200 yards offhand) influenced Major Hinman to undertake mastering the intricacies of long range shooting, and in 1880 he procured an old model (i.e. Rolling Block) Remington long range rifle. At this time there were men in New England who had several times shot in international contests, and were recognized among the best long-range shooters in America. Major Hinman entered the matches then running to compete against these veterans. He adopted the back position, resting the forward part of the barrel between the crossed legs. His powder charge was 112 grains of Hazard powder, FG Duck size; he filled the shell by pouring through a long tube; he measured the powder carefully with a good flask, or a Wilkinson loader, preferring the latter.

The bullet is inserted into the chamber with the loaded cartridge. He uses the long-range Vernier and a ring or aperture front sight. In cleaning, he runs through the barrel a wet bristle and rubber cleaner, followed by a dry flannel rag drawn through with a slotted cleaning rod and another with the flannel slightly oiled, and finally a dry rag, all being separate rods and used in the order mentioned. In his first season's practice at long range he scored 214 and 215 out of a possible 225, fifteen shots each at 800, 900 and 1000 yards. In this year he won the first prize in the 900-yard carton match, making a clean score of seven cartons, which we believe has been made but twice in this country.

In 1881 Major Hinman had reached a state of perfection in long-range shooting which, we believe, is unexcelled in the world. The Long-Range Victory Medal Match of the Massachusetts Rifle Association in 1881, fifteen shots at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards, possible 75 at each range, possible total for the three ranges 225, was won by Major Hinman with a score of 75 at 800, 75 at 900, and 74 at 1,000 yards, making a total of 224 out of the possible 225, which had never before been equalled in a regular match. In the spring of 1881, Major Hinman procured a Spanish model Remington rifle, and began practicing for the International Military Match; he adopted the prone position, which took some time for him to acquire, and he did not feel confident in it. Just before the competition, he changed his rifle for a Special Remington Long-Range rifle. In competition for places on the team of about forty contestants he won twelfth place; in the team practice he stood well, and in the match was third man both at short and long range. In the spring of 1883 he entered the competition for places on the team to visit Wimbledon, in which he used a 40-caliber rifle, barrel 34 inches long, and taking a bottle-necked shell 2 5/8" long. The charge of powder first in the bottom of the shell was a bulk of Bracket powder equal to 15 grains of black powder, over that 80 grains of Hazard FG Sea-Shooting, then a thin grease-proof wad, then a felt wad soaked in a mixture of sperm oil and beeswax; the bullet was 450 grains paper-patched. In the competitions he won fourth place; at Wimbledon he won the first prize in the St. Leger (a re-entry match at 900 yards for iron sighted rifles), with 48 out of a possible 50 on a single entry. In the International Match he took second place on the American team, making a perfect score at 500 yards. *(See page 36.)*

"When the office of Inspector of Rifle Practice in Massachusetts was created, Hinman was appointed to that position for his regiment—the 1st Regiment of Infantry, M.V.M.—with the rank of captain, which position he held about a year and then resigned that position to accept the position of Inspector of Rifle

for the First Brigade of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia with the rank of major, and held that position until he reached the retirement age."

Major Hinman won such a great number of prizes and trophies in 200-yard offhand shooting at Creedmoor, Walnut Hill, and other well known ranges in the United States, and so many long-range matches in this country and abroad that it would require several pages to list them all. He designed the Massachusetts Decimal Target in 1883, believed to be the first decimal count target used by rifle clubs in America, but in 1885 a demand arose for a standard 200-yard target that would be used by all the rifle clubs in this country, which induced Hinman to design the standard American 200-Yard Target. It was adopted by most civilian rifle clubs and used until a comparatively few years ago, when the National Rifle Association targets were introduced.

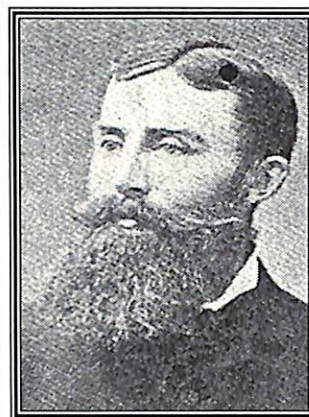
I believe Major C.W. Hinman, F.J. Rabbeth, and W. Milton Farrow devoted greater efforts and accomplished more to improve the accuracy of the 200-yard offhand match rifle and the ammunition for it than any other American riflemen, with the exception of Harry M. Pope. They were all very ingenious, skillful mechanics, devoting a great amount of careful, painstaking study and scientific experimentation to improving the offhand match rifle by learning the capabilities of the different calibers of these rifles, and then improving their accuracy.



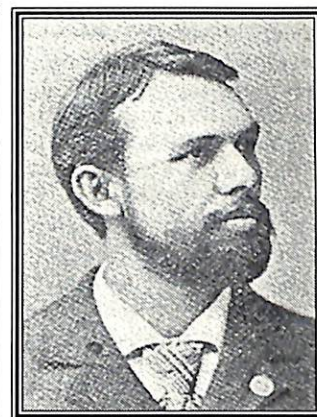
C.W. HINMAN



F.J. RABBETH



W.M. FARROW



H.M. POPE

M.R.A.

In 1875, the rifle targets used in this country and by the National Rifle Association of England had square bullseyes for all ranges. The bullseye on these targets counted 4 points instead of 5 as on the targets used after April, 1875; therefore, a perfect 10-shot score on these standard targets used by the United States Army and Navy today. However, in April, 1875, the National Rifle Association of America adopted the so-called Creedmoor target with a circular bullseye, which had previously been adopted by the National Rifle Association of England.

While the Creedmoor target was an improvement over the old target with square bullseye, by about 1883, there were so many experts with the match rifle at 200 yards offhand, who could and often did make 7-shot, 10-shot and even 15-shot perfect scores on the 8-inch bullseye, that a demand arose among the civilian rifle clubs that riflemen could and often did make 7-shot, a demand arose for a target with finer divisions than the Creedmoor, and having an 8-inch bullseye with inner circles counting 8, 9, and 10. As the most accurate muzzle-loading caplock match rifle then used in this country would keep ten consecutive shots in or cutting a 2- or 2 1/2-inch ring at 220 yards rest using a telescope sight, and our most accurate breech-loading rifle when shot by an expert marksman would keep ten consecutive bullets in or cutting a 3 1/2-inch or 4-inch ring at 200 yards rest, it is obvious that the Creedmoor target was very out-of-date and did not accurately record the true merit of targets shot by hundreds of our expert offhand marksmen. Hence, the need for a target for 200-yard shooting-with finer divisions in the bullseye and the rest of the target.

The discerning rifleman will agree that the most precise method of scoring from the exact center of each bullet hole to the exact center of the aiming point is measured in inches, eighths, and sixteenths, and recorded. Then, the total of these measurements for any series of shots shows the "string measure" in inches and fractions thereof, which is still the only correct method of scoring rifle targets. This is especially true in matches in which the contestants use rifles of different calibers, because with our present method of scoring, when a bullet breaks a scoring ring of the target it is scored at the higher point. That is, if the bullet just cuts the 9-ring, it is scored as a 9, whereas if it was scored from the center of the bullet hole, it would only score an 8. Therefore, it is obvious that with our present method of scoring, the marksman using a 38 or 40 caliber rifle has a marked advantage over the equally skillful marksman shooting at 28-30 or 32-40 caliber rifle.

A 10-shot score at 200 yards offhand by an expert marksman, shot on the Creedmoor, Standard American, or German 25 Ring target, and the same score by string measurement would differ considerably. A perfect score on the Creedmoor target could be as much as 14 point less than a perfect 100 on the Standard American target, 27 point less than a perfect 250 on the German 25 Ring target, and only a poor group or string, by string measure.

We brag today about our super-accurate rifles and the perfection of the ammunition used in them, yet it is extremely doubtful if we have any rifles of any make or caliber that will, even sometimes, make a 10-shot group at 200 yards rest, telescope sight, with a string measure of 6 inches or less. Even C.W. Rowland, with his famous 32-40 Pope rifle and 20-power telescope, made very few 10-shot scores at 200 yards rest which had a total string measure of 5 inches or less. And, be it remembered, the Pope rifle has been claimed to be the most accurate 200-yard rifle known. Personally, I have always doubted that the Rowland-Pope rifle was any more accurate than the Pope rifle used by that expert marksman John D. Kelly.

During the latter part of 1884 and throughout 1885, the 200-yard target question was in a chaotic state in the United States; some clubs had adopted a certain target, while others had a variety in use so that riflemen might shoot on the one preferred. The result of this multiplicity of targets was the inability of riflemen to determine the correct comparative value of scores when reported in the sportsmen's magazines. A comparison of scores was difficult and only possible with one knowing the string measurements, since the scoring values of the shots did not indicate their exact location in relation to the center of the bullseye, and the diameters of the scoring rings varied considerably among the many targets.

The 200-yard Creedmoor target measured 4 feet by 6 feet overall and consisted of a circular black bullseye 8 inches in diameter counting 5, a 4 ring 26 inches in diameter called the "center," a 46 inch "inner" counting 3, and finally the "outer" areas of the target beyond the rings, a shot on any part of which would score as a 2. On this target, a bullet placed 9 inches from the edge of the bullseye, in any direction, scored precisely the same value as a bullet only 1/2 inches from the edge of the bullseye, both shots score 4. Obviously this score was very unfair to all except the poor marksmen, who clamored for the retention of the Creedmoor target because it gave their scores a fictitious value—a higher total than they would have had on any properly designed target.

Early in 1885 the demand by civilian rifle clubs for a finer-ringed target for

200-yard offhand shooting had become so insistent that many noted riflemen were requested to design such a target and submit it to the editor of *The Rifle*, who would present these targets through the columns of that magazine to the various clubs throughout the United States, and let these clubs decide by vote which target should be adopted for use in 200-yard shooting. At that time, the principal 200-yard targets in use by these rifle clubs were the Creedmoor, American Decimal, Massachusetts Decimal, Massachusetts Target, Rabbeth, and German 25 Ring. No two of these were alike in size and the value of the scoring rings. This plan was carried out during the fall and winter of 1885, and the January, 1886, issue of *The Rifle* gave the following report of the vote on the target submitted:

Total number of votes cast.....	1,951
Number of votes cast for a specific target.....	1,865
Hinman Target.....	1,161
Farrow Target.....	339
Byran Target.....	139
Massachusetts Target.....	113
Massachusetts Decimal Target.....	36
Creedmoor Target.....	32
Rabbeth Target.....	30
American Decimal Target.....	15

Additional votes requested to be recorded with the favored target-86 (See page 35.)

This shows that the target designed by Major C.W. Hinman received a total of 1,247 votes out of 1,951 votes cast, and his design was adopted as the Standard American Target. It was 4 feet wide by 6 feet high and was laid out in such a manner that the distance between each successive circle was greater as the value decreased. Thus, the width of the 9 ring was only 1.09" on a side, the 8 ring 1.23", the 7 ring 1.50", and so on until finally the 2 ring measured 5.89" on a side. The circles had diameters as follows: 10 circle 3.36", 9 circle 5.54", 8 circle 8", 7 circle 11", 6 circle 14.80", 5 circle 19.68", 4 circle 26", 3 circle 34.22", 2 circle 46" and the remainder of the target, which consisted principally of the top and bottom extremities, counted as 1 point. The black bullseye included the 8, 9 and 10 rings, while the rest of the targets were white. It will be noted that with this target, any hit on the paper counted as at least 1 point. It was so satisfactory that almost all of our clubs (*except the German-American clubs*) quickly adopted it.

The *Standard American Rest Target* introduced in May, 1887, was simply a variation of this, intended solely for rest shooting, the only changes being the addition of two smaller circles scoring 11 and 12 inside the 10 ring. These measured 2.33" and 1.41" in diameter respectively, and their usefulness in deciding the winner of a closely competitive rest match is obvious. When one considers the profusion of targets that had previously existed, this standardization constituted a great and worthwhile step forward. Henceforth, shooters in all parts of the country could compare scores simply by reading about them. *(See page 17.)*

During those years, the various German Schuetzen societies did not shoot under N.R.A. rules in their Schuetzen fests, at which there was about as much beer drinking as rifle shooting. They used a wide variety of targets including the German 25 Ring, the Point target, Honor target, Eagle target, Man target (silhouette of a man's body and head with vertical scoring lines), and others.

The *German 25 Ring Target* is a very good one and is still used by some rifle clubs for rest shooting and Schuetzen matches, since its fine divisions give each shot in a score a truer value than any other target in use. It is more nearly equal to string measure than any other target we have except the *Columbia*. It has a black bullseye 12 inches in diameter, and the center circle counting 25 is only 1 1/2 inches in diameter, surrounded by circles 3/4 inch apart throughout the entire target. the 25 ring is small enough for 200-yards rest shooting, and requires extremely steady holding in offhand shooting to hit it.

The German Schuetzen societies also used a Point target in many of their matches. This target had a black bullseye 12 inches in diameter, divided into three parts: the center circle, 3 inches in diameter, counted 3 points; the next circle was 6 inches in diameter, counting 2 points; the rest of the black counted 1 point. Shots outside the black did not count. This target was also called the Honor target or the Kingship target, as sometimes the match for the Kingship was shot on this target. *(See page 47.)*

These societies also often used the *Stitch target*, which had a 12-inch diameter black, in the center of which was a 6-inch circle, the rest of the target being white. In matches on this target, none but bullseye shots counted.

The *Columbia Target* also called the *Young target*, was designed by F.O. Young of San Francisco, and was a radical departure from the other targets in use. The center circle was 1 inch in diameter, surrounded by circles 1/2 inch apart, the outer ring being scored as 25; thus the count on this target was just the reverse of the German 25 Ring target. This target represented the diameter of the circle in inches, and when divided by two, gave the distance from the

center, or the approximate string measure. Thus, the total number of shots in a score was expressed in half inches. Young stated that a score of 47 on his target was equivalent to 90 on the *Standard American target*, and a perfect 10-shot score would have a total of 10 points instead of 250 points as on the German 25 Ring target. Since about 997 people out of every thousand think that a high number represents nearer perfection than a low number, that was doubtless one reason why the *Columbia target* failed to become popular with rifle clubs in the East, although many clubs in the West preferred it to any other. *(See page 33, 35.)*

Young furnished the *Columbia Target* in several different types for 200-yards shooting, the target having a white carton through the 4 ring, with the remainder black through the 12 ring. In another, the black extends through the 4 ring, and each ring is subdivided with faint white lines in the center of the 1/2 inch ring. Thus the distance of each bullet hole from the center of the bull is shown in quarter inches.

The *Massachusetts Target* was in use by the Massachusetts Rifle Association for several years, and a few other clubs had adopted it, but it never became popular. It was simply the *Creedmoor target* with 11 and 12 rings inside the 8-inch bullseye, the rest of the target having concentric rings 2 1/4 and 2 1/2 inches apart, on which the 7 ring was the same 26-inch diameter as the 4 ring on the *Creedmoor target*, the 3 ring the same 46 inches as the 3 ring on the *Creedmoor target*, and the rest of the targets counted 2. Therefore, scores shot on this target were easily transposed to the *Creedmoor count*. *(See page 16.)*

The *String Measurement Target* designed by Charles L. Holmes, was practically the same as the *Young target* except that the center of the bullseye, counting 1, was 2 inches in diameter. This was surrounded by concentric circles 1 inch apart in the black bullseye counting 2, 3, and 4, outside of which were circles in the white 1 inch apart. *(See page 43.)*

The *Massachusetts Decimal Target* designed by Major C.W. Hinman, had been in use by the Massachusetts Rifle Association for about two years prior to adoption of the *Standard American target*, and is believed to have been the first American target with a decimal count. It was a good target, much like the *Standard American* in appearance but with slightly smaller scoring rings, and although adopted by many of the rifle clubs, it did not quite suit all of them. *(PG. 30)*

The *Rabbeth Target* was designed by F.J. Rabbeth, and would doubtless have been adopted by the rifle clubs instead of the *Hinman target* if Rabbeth had not announced that he believed the *Hinman target* was the better.

Actually, there was very little difference between this target and the Hinman, most of the circles measuring only slightly larger in diameter, with the black bullseye the same 8". However, the Hinman target laid claim to a more mathematically correct design with its decimal dimensions. The so-called Rabbeth-Field target was a later design put forward by *The American Field* about 1887, and while it was based upon the original Rabbeth target, it included an 11 ring of 2" diameter for rest shooting only. (See page 29.)

The Farrow Target designed by that noted expert rifleman W. Milton Farrow, was a departure from the usual target in that it measured 4' x 4' rather than 4' x 6' and had a red bullseye instead of black, but bullet holes show up more plainly in a red bullseye than in a black one; therefore the change was in the right direction. However, this target was too much like the Creedmoor to be popular with the majority of riflemen. (See back cover)

The Byran Target designed by John M. Byran which proved third most popular in the voting for selection of a standard target. Measuring 4' x 6', this target had an 8" bullseye counting 5, a 16" 4 ring, 28" 3 ring, and 46" 2 ring. It therefore followed the Creedmoor system of counting 5 points maximum per shot rather than 10, but the scoring rings (except for the bullseye) were considerably smaller, thereby penalizing the shooter who could not group his shot within 16".

The American Decimal Target designed by Mr. William Hayes in 1888, was not intended to displace the Standard American target, but rather sought to provide a large (10") bullseye for aiming purposes while at the same time reducing the spacing of the rings to an even 1" apart, starting with a 2" center ring counting 15, and from there on down to 1. This was another attempt to make possible finer scoring and reduce the likelihood of tie scores, but it never became widely popular.

It is obvious that a correctly and scientifically designed rifle target for 100- and 200-yard shooting should not have scoring rings all of which are the same distance apart in any part of the target. Instead, the counting rings should mathematically increase in diameter from the center of the bullseye to and including the outer ring of the target. Therefore, when carefully considered, the present N.R.A. target are not equal to the Standard American target, which ought to be printed and used by the rifle clubs for offhand shooting at 200 yards and the Standard American Rest target should be used in rest shooting at 200 yards. The present N.R.A. target was apparently designed to make it easier for riflemen to make higher scores than they would make if shot on the Standard American target.

In 1873-89, the dominant organization in the firearms field was not the National Rifle Association, but rather the American Field operated by the Field Enterprises in Chicago, Illinois.

The American Field, on the other hand, awarded "Rapid Fire" medals for accuracy and fast shooting with breech loading repeaters and encouraged long range single shot rifle shooting by awarding "Long Range" badges for each year's shooting. The badges or medals had the year of award on them. The American Field enabled all clubs no matter how small or how large to compete in a telegraphic match which was to be conducted on the club's own range under the rules as stipulated by the American Field Shooting Committee composed of members from the Upper Mississippi Rifle Association, the Western Rifle Association, and several others.

The scores were fired in a shoulder-to-shoulder match, and then had to be telegraphed to the Chicago office before a specified time where the scores from all over the country were recorded. Individual clubs often made these shoots the occasion for awarding local prizes as well.

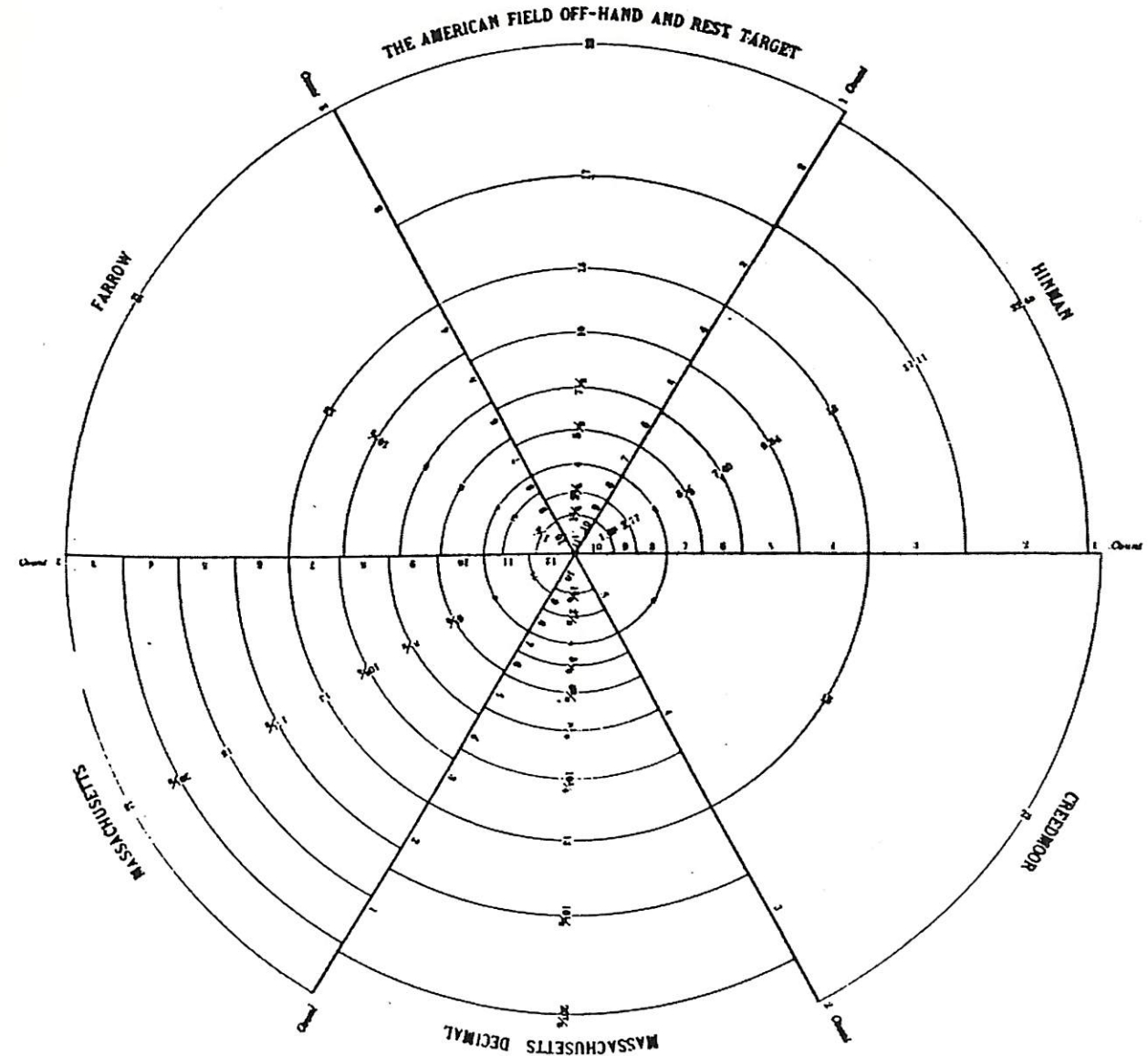
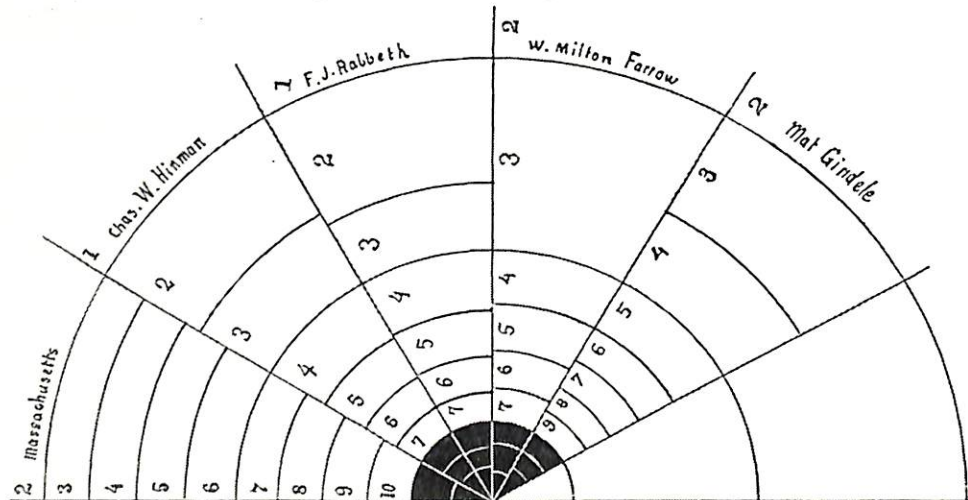
Because the clubs over the country used a variety of targets, there was general confusion in these matches, for scores were reported under different means, depending upon the target used.

In January, 1888 the American Field took steps to find an acceptable target which could be used by everyone firing in the telegraphic matches. Their first proposed target was a standard target in the January 16 issue. After they had received considerable comment, they printed a composite target on February 20th, showing all the targets and their differences. There was the Farrow, the American Field Offhand and Rest target, Hinman, Creedmoor, Massachusetts Decimal, and the Massachusetts regular.

After much debate and polling, the Standard target known as the American Field target was accepted for use in all matches. The 25 German Ring target continued to be used by the Schuetzen Verein Societies in all their own matches. The National Rifle Association which was organized for the purpose of promoting military type shooting was also in the same position, for there was an increasing use of targets other than the Creedmoor target favored by the association.

Finally, *The Rifle* which was published by the Association in 1885 was used to discuss the merits of the various targets available and after almost a year of such discussion, a vote was held as of January 1, 1886 and the majority of its clubs voted for the Standard American target.

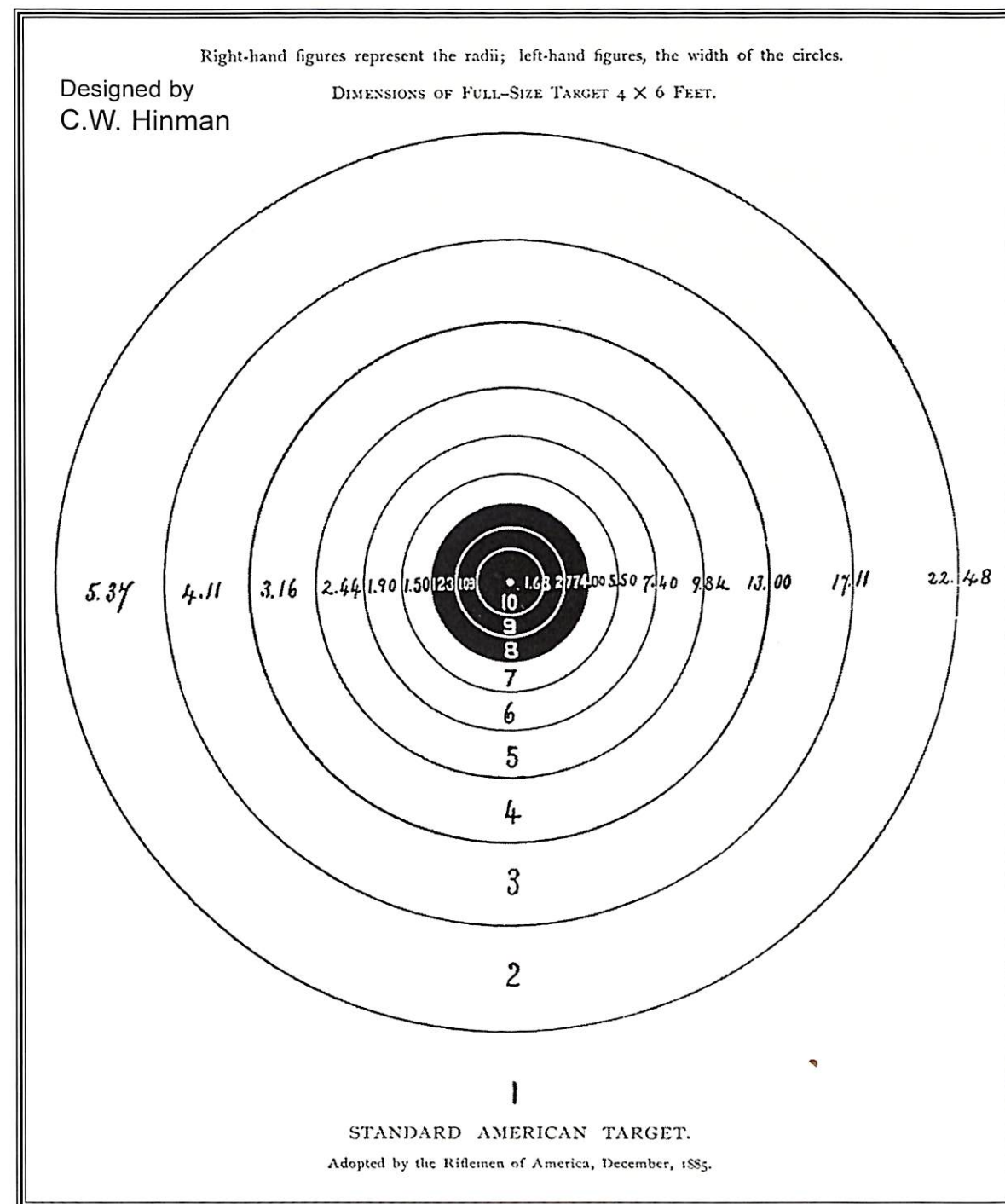
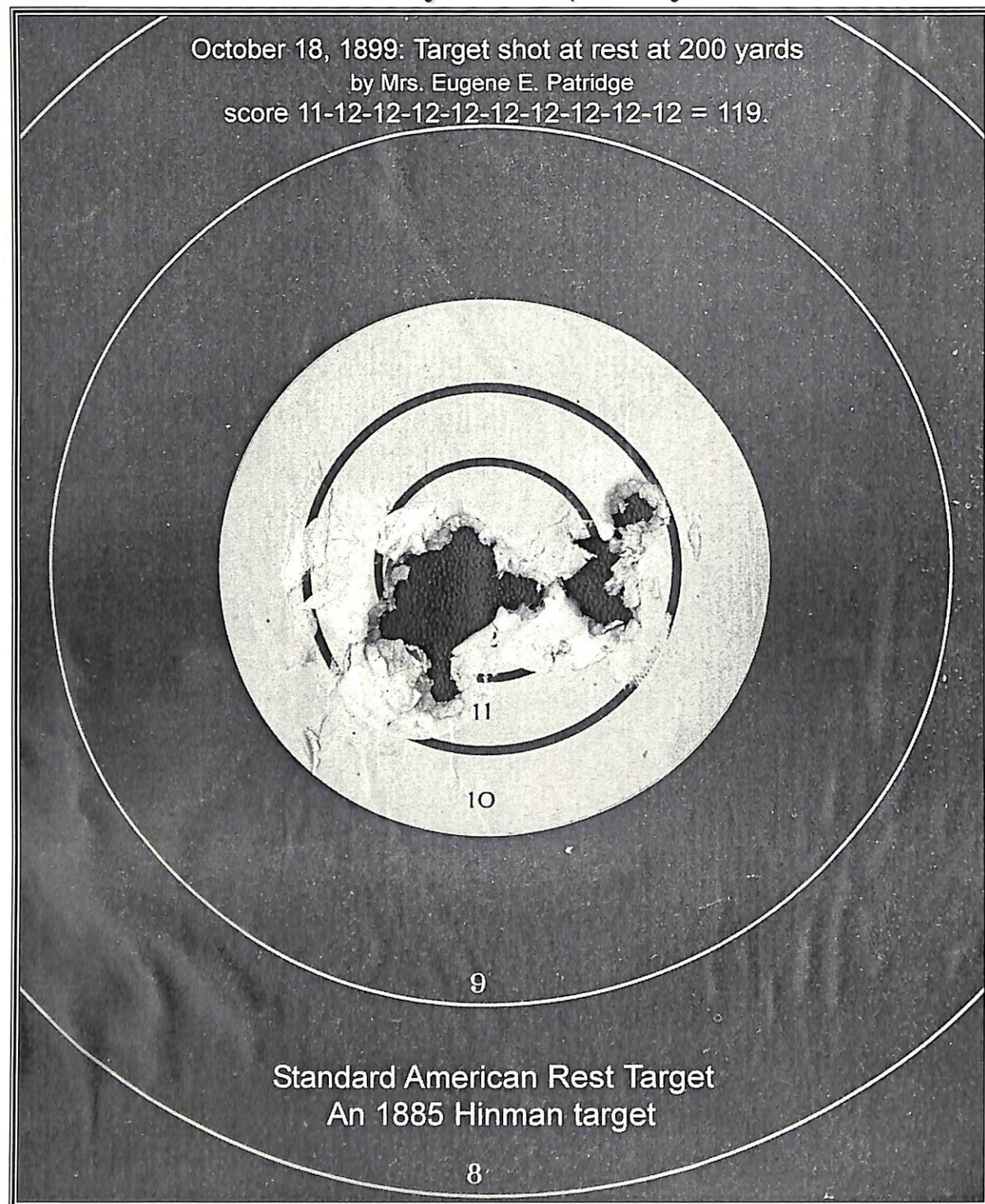
The American Field Target which that organization adopted, was based more on the design of the target designed by F.J. Rabbeth of Walnut Hill Rifle Club in July 1885. For years, the target was actually known as the Rabbeth Field target. As a result of the action of the two major rifle organizations, the targets were then narrowed down to three: the Standard American target, the Rabbeth Field target, and the German Ring target. These targets continued in use for many years. The German Ring target continues in use today as well as the Standard American target with modifications. Some of the shooters who attained some national prominence by their participation in the American Field matches also attained local recognition in their own clubs. The list of shooters still known to those interested today might not be amiss. There was W.M. Farrow, acclaimed as an international shot and whose attempted discreditation by General Wingate of the National Rifle Association brought such discredit to the N.R.A. that it was finally forced to reorganize; C.L. Cobb, a shooter and rifleman who shot with the Brattleboro, Vermont, team; Dr. E.F. Hodges, an excellent offhand shooter from Indianapolis, Indiana; E.W. Bird of Fairmont, Minnesota; A.C. Gould, who wrote the two volumes on rifles and revolvers; C.M. Skinner, an excellent long range shooter of the Minneapolis Rifle Club; Cenoweth, who was president of the Upper Mississippi Valley Rifle Association; W.V. Lowe and N.S. Brockaway, the famous muzzle loader shooters from Vermont; Francis J. Rabbeth, rifleman and experimenter; and C.W. Hinman, the designer of the Hinman target. Later, the names began to change, and there were names such as H.M. Pope, A.O. Niedner, A.O. Zischang, Axel Peterson, Dr. Hudson, J.P. Lower, C. Rowland, Arthur Hubalek, C.T. Westergaard, and many, many others.



Composite target for study and recommendation for adoption.
The American Field, February 20, 1886.

The Rifle, July 13, 1887.

A few years ago the reports of persons hitting small objects thrown in the air with a bullet shot from a rifle were not credited by many who knew the precision necessary to perform such feats. Now there are scores, if not hundreds, who can perform feats which a short time ago were considered impossible, and we find ourselves wondering to what extent marksmanship will be carried. Mr. A. Harris, of Boston, is so skilful in the use of the revolver that he will often hit several times in succession with a bullet from a revolver a tin can of three or four inches in diameter when tossed into the air a few yards from him.

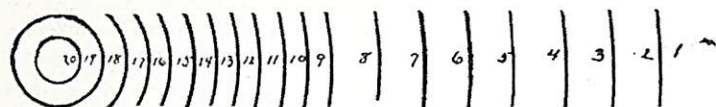


In accordance with the statement made in these columns on Oct. 1, we present in this issue designs of all targets submitted to the consideration of American rifle clubs and riflemen, in order that those who care to do so may vote for their preference for a standard target. We wish to have this vote as complete as possible, but again we will state that riflemen are themselves to decide their preferences; we will merely record their votes. As before stated, during the month of January, 1897, votes of the clubs will be received, and in the first issue of *Shooting and Fishing* in February, or as near that time as the returns warrant, the results will be announced. Below are given portions of each target submitted.

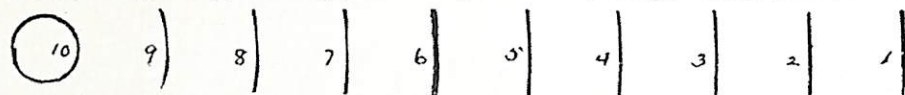
All reproductions are one-fourth the actual size of the targets:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

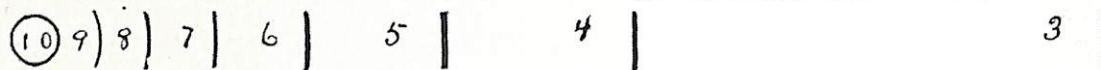
THE COLUMBIA TARGET—Submitted by F. O. Young, San Francisco, Cal. Bullseye, 12 inches in diameter. Twenty-six $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rings. Count from 1—the center—to 27.



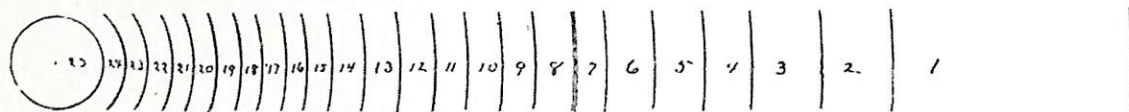
THE NATIONAL RING TARGET—Submitted by Henry S. Harris, Boston, Mass. Bullseye, 12 inches in diameter, consisting of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rings, followed by seven 1-inch rings. Count from center—20—to 1.



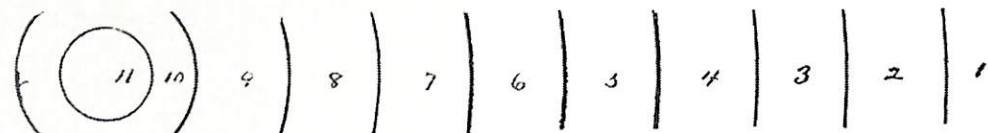
THE MATCH TARGET—Submitted by A. L. A. Himmelwright, New York. Bullseye, any desired size. Ten-ring, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, followed by nine two-inch rings. Count from center—10—to 1.



IDEAL TARGET CENTER—Submitted by R. H. Burns, Jamestown, N. Y. Bullseye, 12 inches in diameter; center—10 ring—one inch; 9, three inches; 8, five inches; 7, eight inches; 6, twelve inches; 5, eighteen inches; 4, twenty-six inches; 3, forty-six inches; 2, balance 4x6 target.



THE SHARPSHOOTERS' TARGET—Submitted by A. Wallich, Manitowoc, Wis. Bullseye, 12 inches in diameter. Center—25—two inches in diameter, followed by ten $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rings, eight $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, two 1-inch, two $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, and one 5-inch rings. Count, 25 to 1.



THE AMERICAN IDEAL TARGET—Submitted by T. L. Hemming, Carrollton, Ohio. Bullseye, twelve inches. Ten 2-inch rings.



THE JONES TARGET—Submitted by Jesse B. Jones, Pittsburg, Pa. Bullseye, 12 inches in diameter; 15 ring—the center—2 inches in diameter, followed by ten 1-inch and one 2-inch rings; balance same as Creedmoor target.

We reluctantly consented to again open this question, because we believed that no one design would be accepted by all, and that the Standard American target was still preferred by many riflemen, and was as near a standard target as we could ever get; we also knew that the German Ring target was in high-esteem on account of its merits and records. But we could not be blind to the undoubted merits of the Columbia target and its intelligent following; and to it was the wish of some of our readers that these columns be opened for discussion, and a vote taken, so we responded to the wishes of those who appealed to us, and have endeavored to do the work thoroughly.

The results are not without interest. To us it seems apparent that most of the American clubs continue to prefer the Standard American target. The vote also showed that the German Ring target is still very popular, especially with the German-American riflemen. The Columbia target, we infer from this vote, has come to stay. All of these three targets possess undoubted merit, and we believe if every riflemen in America designs, these targets would receive the largest number of votes.

There are a great many clubs which have not voted. Every rifle club in America, known to us, was notified and invited to cast its vote. Those voting are recorded in this issue. Some clubs have been dilatory and are sending in their votes too late, even though we several times postponed the date for closing the matter; still other clubs have declared there was no need of opening again the question of a standard target, and declared they would not vote on the question.

We think it proper to declare the rifle target question in these columns closed. In doing this we would make the suggestion that the match rifle shooting of America be confined to the target mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs. They all possess merit, riflemen are well acquainted with them, and can judge very nearly of the value of a score. It will be left for each club to determine which one shall be used for its regular shooting; but where different target are used for the sake of variety, let the choice be confined to these three. If riflemen cannot decide on one target, let them unite on the three preferred by American riflemen. (February 11, 1897)

The Rifle, July 1887

It is evident that keen eyesight has something to do with expert rifle-shooting at the 200 yard range Messrs. D.L.F. Chase, F.J. Rabbeth, and N. Washburn, towers of strength as rest rifle-shots, often remark that they can plainly see the white spotting disk at a distance of 200 yards when placed in the bull's-eye to spot the shot.

The Legend of Maj. Charles W. Hinman

In 1886, the first standard American target for 200 yds. was adopted by a majority vote of shooters and shooting clubs. It was a target with a high scoring value of 10 to be superimposed on the Creedmoor 200-yd. military target, for use either in military or sporting rifle shooting. This target was identical to the Standard American 50-yd. slow-fire pistol target in use today. Maj. Charles W. Hinman, who designed this target in 1885, had been a shooter since he was encouraged as a boy to spend time out-of-doors for his health, and developed a love for hunting and guns. Hinman became a member of the Massachusetts Rifle Association in 1879. He quickly became proficient at offhand shooting, first with a .40 cal. Kirkwood rifle and later a .35 cal. Maynard, winning matches at Creedmoor, Long Island; Manchester, N.H.; Medford and Wakefield, Mass. Hinman was a member of the 4-man MRA team which won the Offhand Championship at the 1881 Annual NRA Matches at the Creedmoor Range. In 1880, he took up long-range shooting, using a Remington rifle from the back position. On Aug. 24, 1881, at Walnut Hill, Mass., he scored a record 224 (75-75-74) at 800, 900, and 1000 yds., 15 shots at each range. In 1879, Hinman joined the Roxbury City Guards of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. (See page 39.)

He shot the Springfield military rifle well in competition, and won places on the military rifle teams which shot international matches with British teams at Creedmoor in 1882 and at Wimbledon, England, in 1883. In state and company military competitions, Hinman was often high man. He was considered the best shot in his regiment, and was named Regimental Inspector of Rifle Practice when that office was created. Shortly afterward, he was named Inspector of Rifle Practice, 1st Brigade. Maj. Hinman graduated at the head of the Class of 1870 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He taught chemistry there for a year. He was then appointed State Gas Inspector and held that position for over 20 years. Next, he became a manufacturer of gas meters, and invented a number of gas appliances. Maj. Hinman hunted and fished widely in eastern Canada throughout his life. He died while on a fishing trip in Nova Scotia from a burst appendix.

Born-Concord, Vt., April 11, 1849

Died-Jordan Falls, Nova Scotia, May 26, 1922

The Rifle, July 17, 1887.

Major Charles W. Hinman did some excellent shooting at the 500-yard range at Walnut Hill. On July 17, using the Sharps' Borchardt military rifle, he made a run of 17 consecutive bull's-eye.

Creedmoor Trophy



SILVER



C.W. HINMAN

Offhand Championship 200 Yards Trophy

Won at Creedmoor on September 15, 1881

by

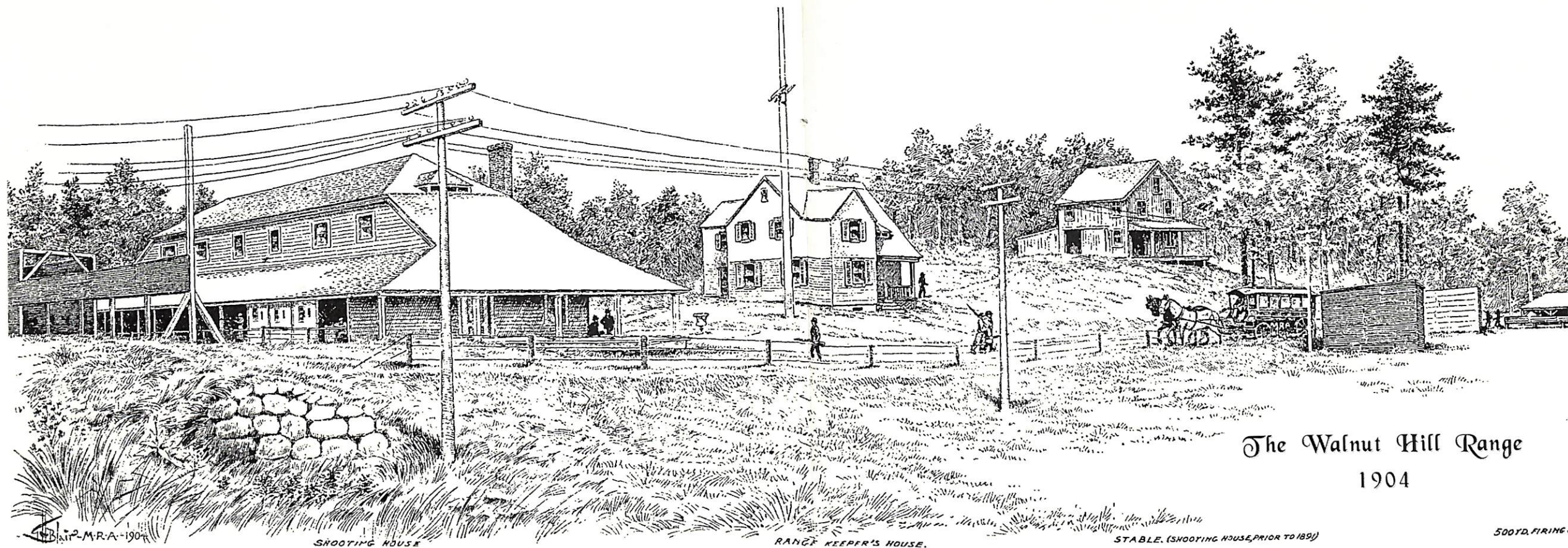
M. R. A. Team Members

E. J. Cram ~ O. M. Jewell

G. F. Ellsworth ~ C. W. Hinman



O.M. JEWELL



The Walnut Hill Range 1904

Mr. Rabbeth withdraws his design for a standard target.

Mr. F.J. Rabbeth, the well-known rifleman who recently submitted a design for a standard rifle target through these columns, writes us as follows:

"I would like to withdraw the design for target offered by me and published in *Shooting and Fishing* some months ago. I think Mr. Keough's design a better one with the count from 1 in center to 20 outward; but I am of the opinion that the Standard American redrawn so as to eliminate all fractions of diameters less than 1/2 inches, but conforming to those lines as closely as such change would permit, would be a better all-round target for all classes of riflemen than any yet shown. The advantage is that marking can be done with the ordinary clock dial and is more rapid. Targets could be drawn outside the 4 ring, and an important

advantage would be that rest scores have a different count from offhand as now on the Standard American target. This feature should be preserved, else there will be many poor rest scores masquerading as offhand. Redrawn, the Standard American would have a center ring for rest shooting 1 1/2 inches in diameter; for offhand the 10 ring would be 3 1/2 inches in diameter. Both of these rings are of such diameter that in neither style of shooting can perfect scores be often made, and the ideal target should be such that the highest skill could occasionally make a perfect score. So long as ties do not become too frequent there is no objection."

The Rifle, April 22, 1880. Long-Range Record.

Match rifle; 800, 900, 1,000 yards; 1st-class target; 45 shots; possible 225.
Charles W. Hinman, Walnut Hill, Mass., August 24, 1881. ~ 224

Walnut Hill

1910

The M.R.A. Range
layout

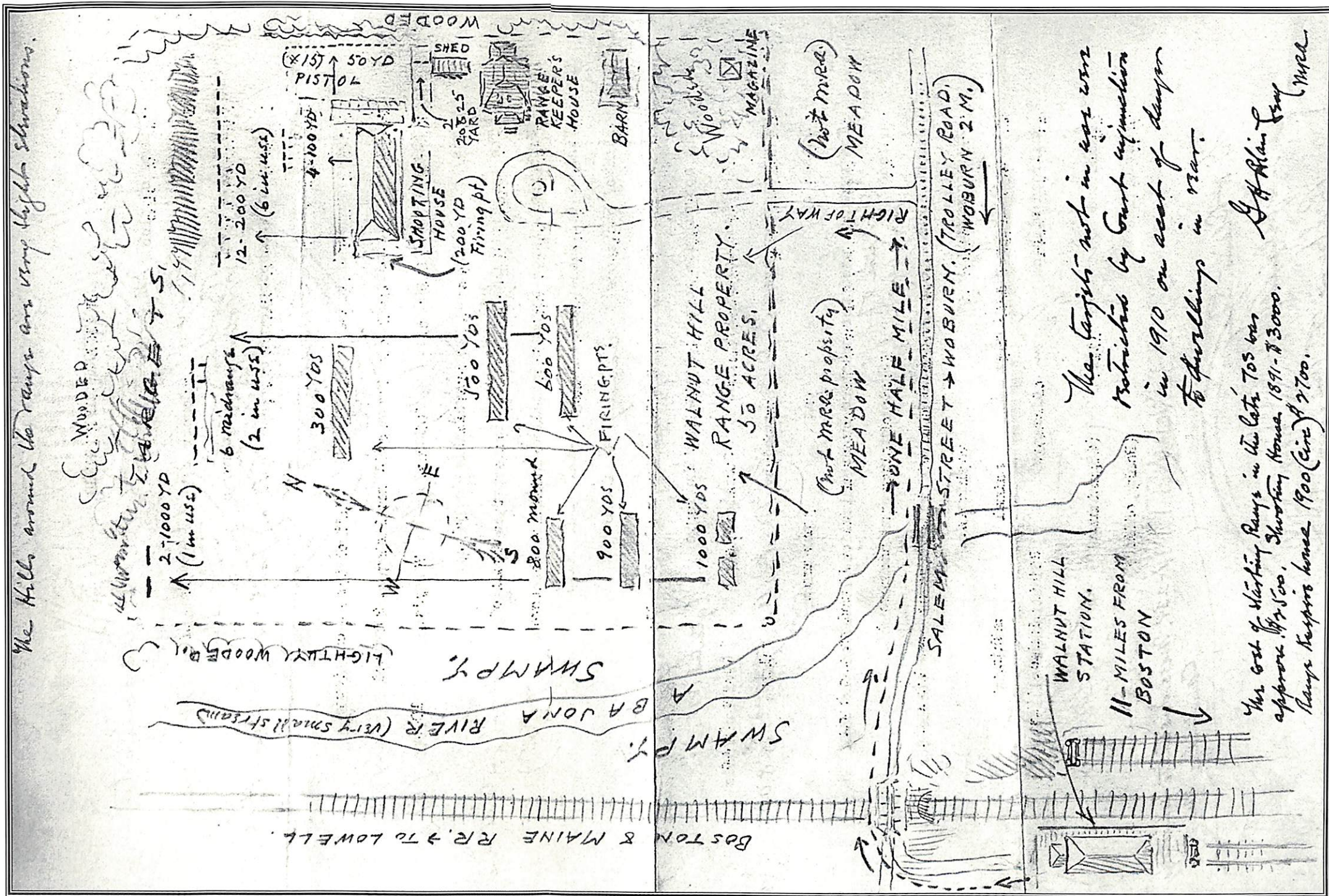
Rifle Ranges

1,000 yards
900 yards
800 yards
600 yards
500 yards
300 yards
200 yards
100 yards

Pistol Ranges

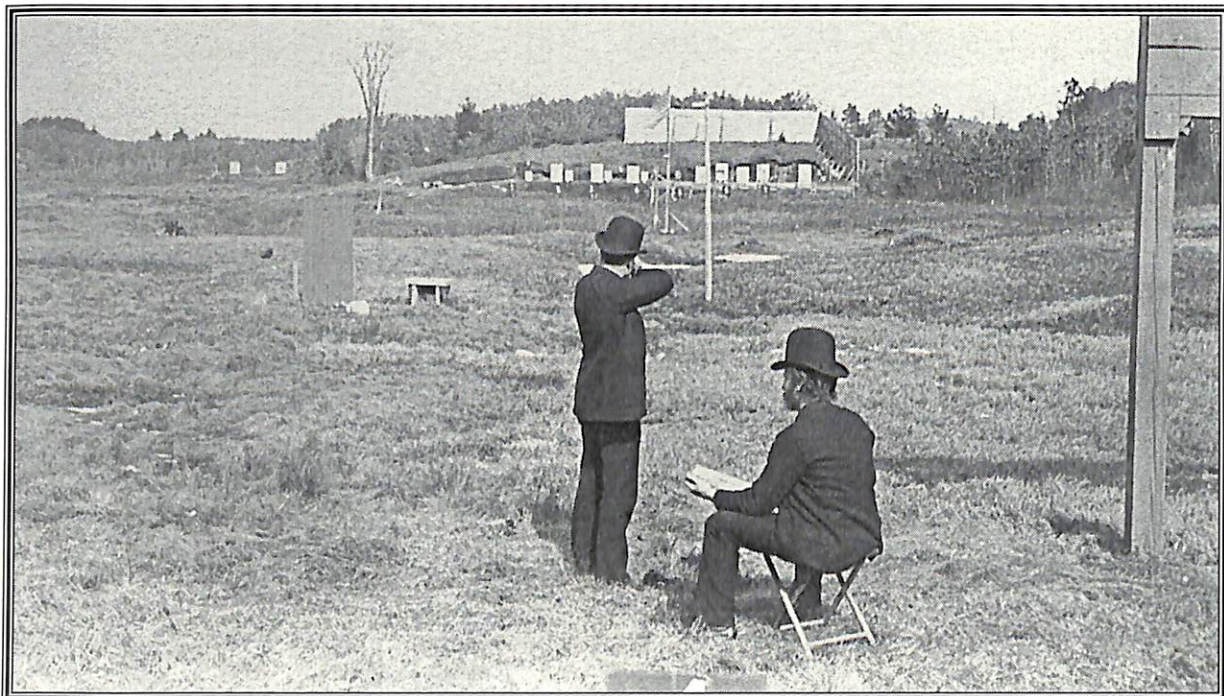
50 yards
25 yards
20 yards

As you can see, the cost of the land in the late 1870's was \$2,500.00 and the Club House was \$3,000.00 in 1891. Last was the Range House for \$2,700.00 in 1900.

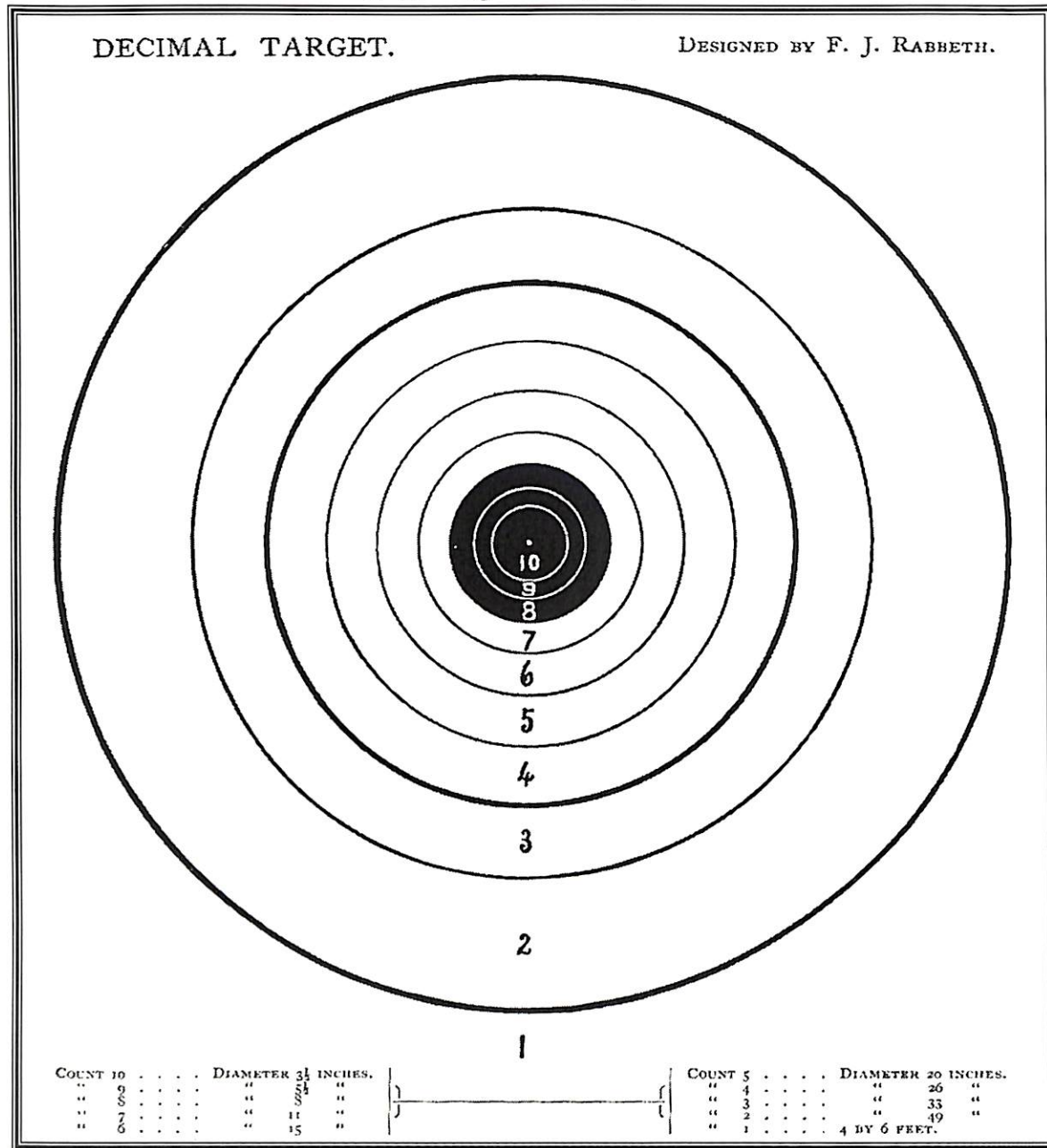




C.W. Hinman doing some shooting in 1890. And George R. Russell is sitting down, keeping score.



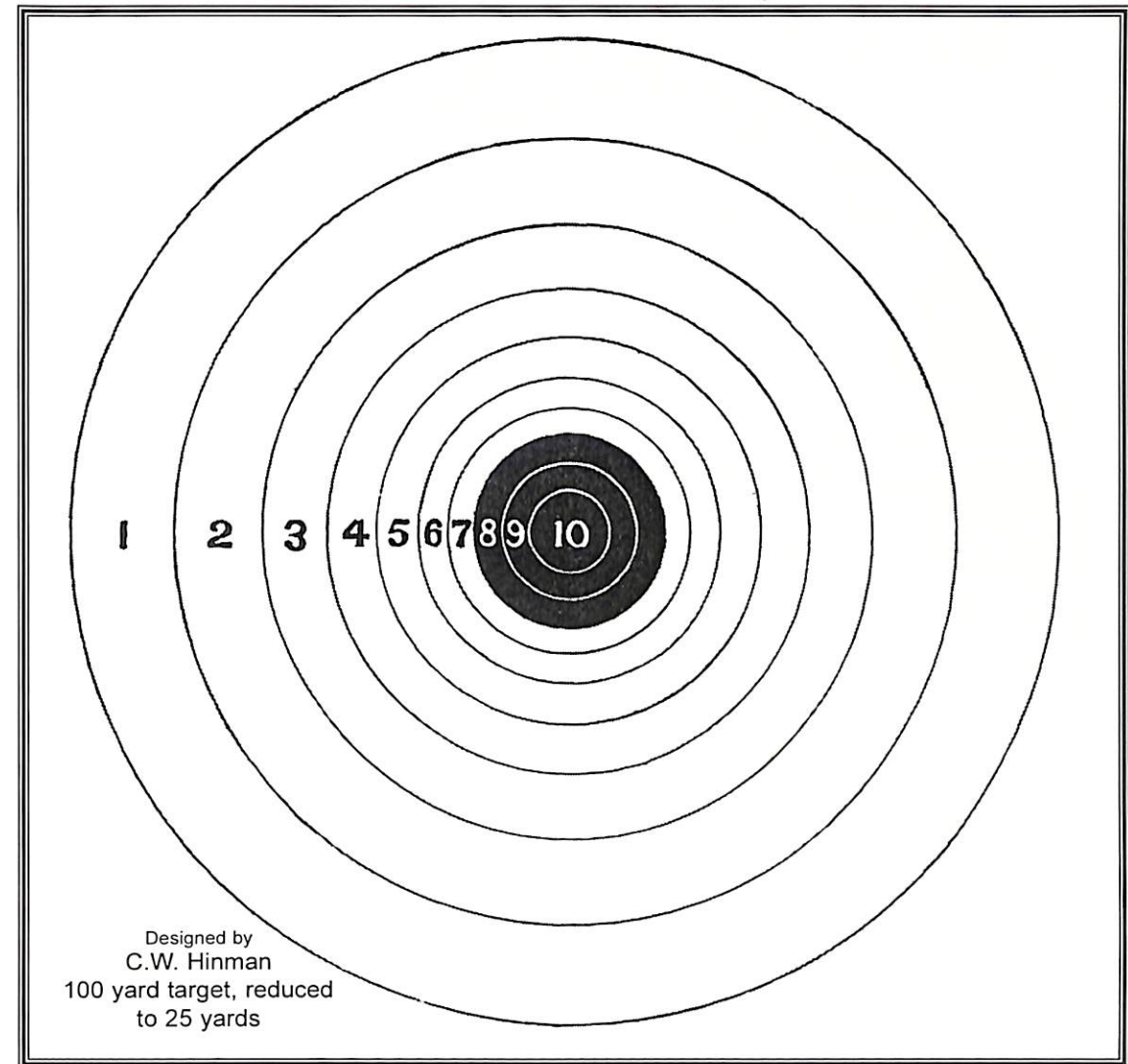
The American team got a very effective drubbing at Creedmoor on September 8, 1882. Disadvantages lay in both arms and ammunition. Some famous small bore shooters had joined the National Guard in order to be eligible. Selection was by competition. The only National Guard Troops available for the American team were those of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, and parts from those of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and California. The entire number accustomed to regular rifle practice was about 20,000; very few had done work at 800, 900, and 1000 yds. Competitive shooting was done at Creedmoor, Long Island. The team was chosen at the 7th Armory, New York City, May 18, 1883, by the directors of the National Rifle Association, behind closed doors. M. W. Farrow was left off because the Newport Artillery Company was not a National Guard unit; others for the sake of harmony. Lt. Col. Geo. E. P. Howard, I. R. P. 1st Brig., N. J., was chosen team captain. His first order established his staff. Lt. Col. E. O. Shakespeare, a Philadelphia physician on Gov. Hartranft's staff, was appointed Adjutant; Maj. L. R. Denmen, 1st Brig. staff, N. J., G. M.; Capt. A. H. Herts, Secretary to the Captain. *The following sailed June 19, 1883 for England and Wimbledon:* Sergt. Walter Scott, 3rd Separate Co. Inf., N. Y. N. G. Sergt. T. J. Dolan, 12 Reg., Co. F, Sergt. J. L. Paulding, Sergt. W. L. Cash, W. L. C., Sergt. A. B. Van Heusen, 12 Reg., Co. Bb. Priv. J. M. Pollard, W. L. I. C., Priv. Geo. Joiner, 23 Reg. Priv. J. M. Brown, 7 Reg. Priv. C. W. Hinman, 1 Reg., Co. D, Priv. M. W. Bull, 2 Reg., Co. D, Priv. John Smith, 9 Reg., Co. C, Priv. S. J. Scott, M. D. W. L. I. C. Reserve: Maj. E. O. Shakespeare, 1 Div. staff, Pa. N. G. Priv. F. J. Rabbeth, 1 Reg., Co. D. Reserve Fred Alder, 7 Reg., Co. C. Reserve: Priv. Frank Stuart, 69 Reg., Co. C. Those identified are: *back row*; Dr. S. Scott, Washington, Light Infantry Corps; Sergt. Dola; unidentified; J. W. Pollard; Frank Stuart; unidentified; Fred Alder; unidentified; W. L. Cash, Team Captain; Lt. Col. Shakespeare; Lt. Walter Scott. *On ground*: C. W. Hinman of Walnut Hill; Mylan Bull; Frances J. Rabbeth of Walnut Hill. The photo was taken at Creedmoor, Long Island, September 8, 1882.



The Rifle, August 27, 1887.

Mr. J. Rabbeth, in the 200-yard rest-match, at Walnut Hill, recorded the following score on the Standard American Rest target, which equals the best recorded score to date:

12 ~ 12 ~ 12 ~ 12 ~ 11 ~ 12 ~ 10 ~ 12 ~ 11 ~ 12 ~ 116.

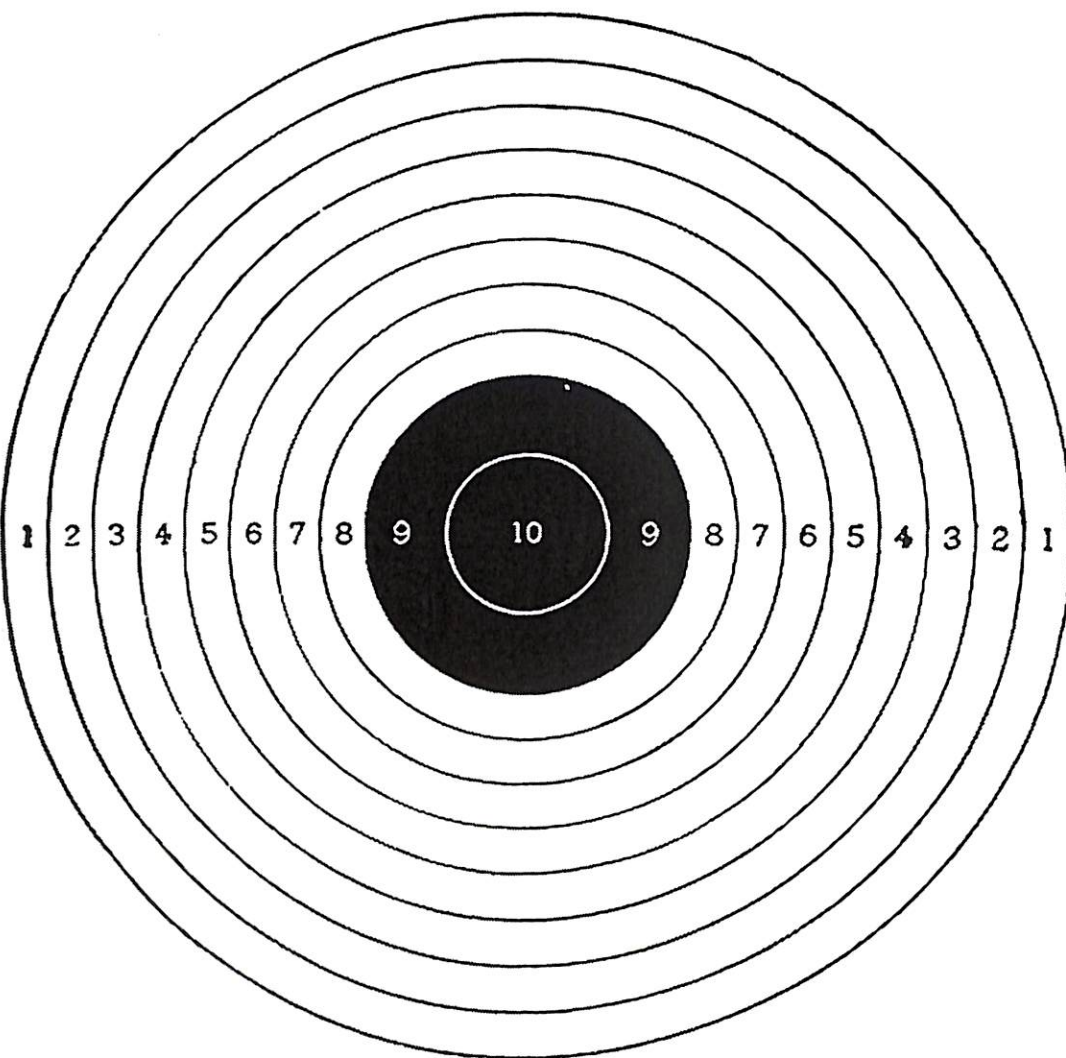


The Rifle, April 9, 1887.

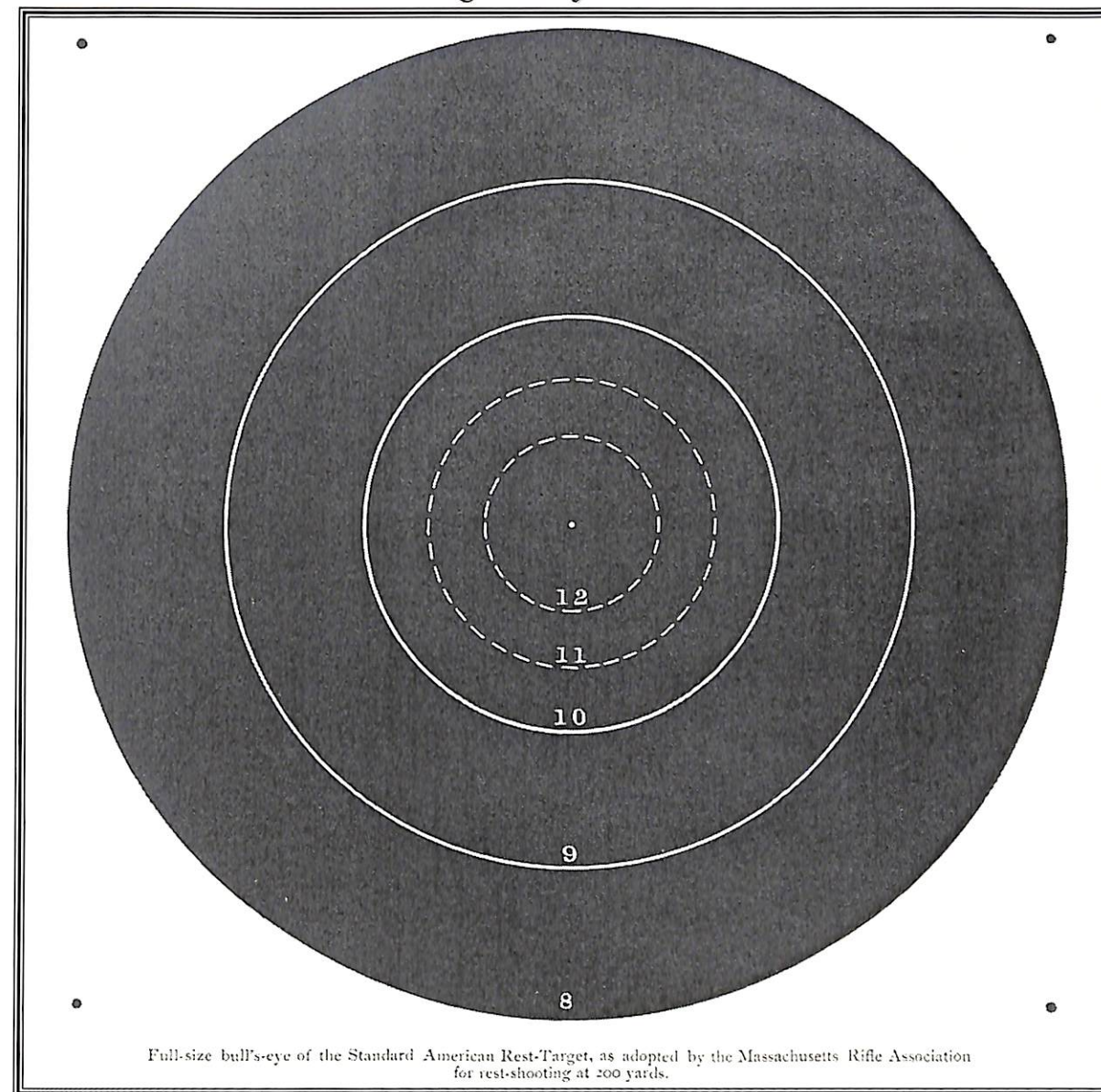
There was a pleasant occurrence at the Walnut Hill rifle-range on April 9, Mr. Salem Wilder, one of the oldest members of the Massachusetts Association, a gentleman who has for half a century been devoted to rifle-shooting, recorded a perfect score of 100 in the rest-match in the Standard American target. For many months this gentleman with apparent ease would frequently score 99; but the additional point seemed just beyond his reach; but he was to be satisfied with nothing short of a perfect score, and secured it on a day which taxed all the skill of riflemen to baffle the deceptive wind. Mr. Wilder is one of the several Mr. Wilder is one of the several riflemen about Boston who have shot a rifle for recreation since boyhood, and with no diminution of interest as years roll by. When a rifleman passes the fiftieth year of his existence, and still loves rifle-shooting, he is likely to be devoted to the sport the rest of his life. Those who believe they are too old to shoot the rifle should visit Walnut Hill, where the rest-shooters seem to show an increased proficiency the older they grow.

THE AMERICAN DECIMAL TARGET.

200-yard target reduced to 25 yards.



Measurement of full-sized target: Diameter of 10 circle, four inches; 9 circle, eight inches; each additional circle, one and one-eighth inches apart.



The Rifle, April 20, 1885.

A short time ago the placing of ten consecutive shots in the ten circle on the Standard American target was considered the acme of perfection in riflshooting. The experts who had accomplished this creditable feat of marksmanship a year ago were few; they are so now, but the performance so often repeated by these Caesar's in the rifle world cause them to yearn for a bull's-eye with still finer divisions. Capt. Hinman has responded to their call, and designed a new bull's-eye, which will be known as the Standard American rest-target. Outside of the bull's-eye the circles remain unchanged; inside of the 8-inches bull's-eye are 4 circles, counting 9-10-11 and 12, being 5.94, 4.32, 2.99, and 1.82 inches in diameter respectively. This will make the count in the standard rest-target from 1 to 12. The bull's-eye for this target will be printed separately, so as to permit of their being readily affixed to the present target. By the time this paper reaches our readers the new target will be in use at Walnut Hill; and as perfection is not likely to be made on the Standard rest-target, there will, doubtless, be a great effort made among the rest-shooters to secure the best record.

Shooting and Fishing, 1896. Rifle shooting, as practiced in America, consists largely of match rifle shooting. When shooting with such a rifle, the degree of skill is determined by much finer targets than are generally used when shooting the military rifle. The development of the match rifle and skill in shooting arms brought forth many suggestions for targets, and a few years ago almost every rifle club had its own design of target. At that time, no sportsman's paper printed reports of the weekly shoots in different parts of the country; expert riflemen, as a rule, had only local reputations.

With the advent of *The Rifle*, and its successor, *Shooting and Fishing*, riflemen of this country became better acquainted with each other; the scores of clubs were published, and it then became apparent that a correct idea of many riflemen's shooting could not be formed, because of the large number of different targets in use, which differed greatly.

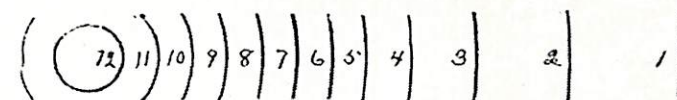
In 1885, the question of adopting a standard target with various designs was voted upon the polls closing January 1, 1886. Forty-five American rifle clubs voted, and a design by Major C. W. Hinman received the greatest number of votes. It was then named the Standard American target. This target has since been used by a large number of American rifle clubs, and some of the greatest known scores in the various styles of rifle shooting, revolver shooting, and pistol shooting have been made on it. (See page 48.)

There is another target which was in use prior to the adoption of the Standard American target, known as the German Ring target. This target had been popular for many years, and is still popular. It has undergone several changes in the width of the rings, but now is used generally with rings three-quarters of an inch apart. It is used largely by German-American riflemen, and a great many important records have been made on it.

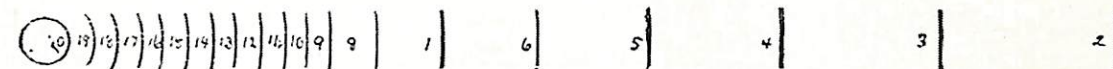
Recently, that well-known rifleman of California, F.O. Young, submitted to the riflemen of America a design for a rifle target, known as the Columbia target, which he believed, from the increased skill of riflemen and the improvement in rifle and ammunition, was better suited to the present time than other targets in use.

The introduction of the Columbia target again raised the question of adopting a standard target.

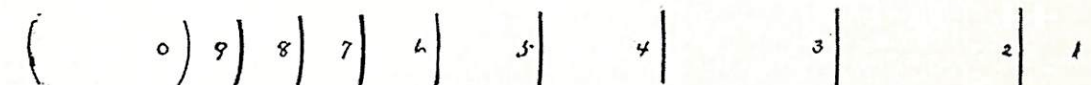
We received many letters asking that our columns be opened to a discussion of the subject and for publication of various designs. It was claimed by some of our readers that ten years had elapsed since the last vote on the subject was taken, and the changed condition of affairs made it desirable to take such a step.



WHITEFORD TARGET—Submitted by W. T. Whiteford, Barnard, Mo. Bullseye, 12 inches in diameter; center—12—1 1/2 inches in diameter, followed by seven 3/4-inch rings, one 1-inch ring, one 1 1/2-inch, one 2-inch, and one 2 1/2-inch ring.



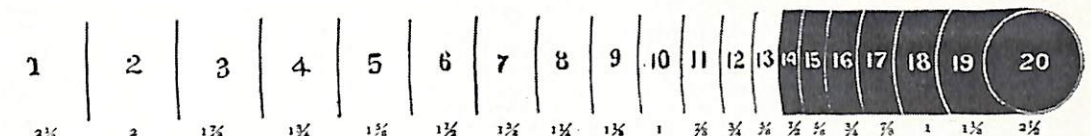
THE UNIVERSAL RING TARGET—Submitted by J. H. Keough, Wakefield, Mass. Bullseye, 12 inches in diameter, twelve 1/2-inch rings counting from 20—the center—to 9, followed by seven rings, each increasing half-inch in width.



SAVANNAH RIFLE ASSOCIATION TARGET—Submitted by the Savannah Rifle Association, Savannah, Ga. The cut shows only the minor diameter of rings. It is the Blunt military target with other rings drawn in, counting from 10 in the center out to 1, the 4x6 target; for military shooting the count from 5 out to 2 is retained. It will be seen at a glance the count is the same as that of the Standard American target. The following table of dimensions will make the matter clear:

	DIAMETER IN INCHES.		WIDTH OF ELLIPSE	
	Major.	Minor.	Major.	Minor.
10 Ellipse	4.20	3.36	2.10	1.68
9 "	5.02 1/2	5.54	1.36 3/4	1.09
8 "	10.00	8.00	1.53 3/4	1.23
7 "	13.20	10.50	1.60	1.25
6 "	17.50	14.00	2.15	1.75
5 "	23.20	18.50	2.85	2.25
4 "	30.00	24.00	3.40	2.75
3 "	39.00	31.70	4.50	3.85
2 "	50.00	40.00	5.50	4.15
1 "	72.00	45.00	11.00	4.60

Count on Blunt target: 1 counts 2; 2 and 3 count 3; 4 to 7 count 4; 8 to 10 count 5, a bullseye.



CAPTAIN MAT GINDELE'S STANDARD TARGET—The diameter of the 1 ring is 47 1/2 inches. The above figures show the width of each ring in inches.

THE ASSOCIATION TARGET—Designed by William Hasenzahl, Cincinnati, Ohio, but not submitted. Circles outside bullseye are of same size, but inside the black the circles are decreased toward center for palm rest shooting, and for target and open sights are enlarged.



The No. 16 Maynard Rifle, Model 1882.

VOTES FOR A STANDARD TARGET.

Following is the result of the vote of American rifle clubs for a standard American target:

Total number of votes cast	1,951
Number of votes for specified targets	1,885
Hinman target	1,161
Farrow target	339
Byran target	139
Massachusetts target	113
Massachusetts (modified) target	36
Creedmoor target	30
Rabbeth target	30
American Decimal target	15
Additional votes requested to be recorded with the favored target	86

One club voted for the Hinman target without giving its number of members.

The vote by clubs:—

Total number of clubs voting	43
Hinman target	24
Farrow target	8
Massachusetts target	4
Massachusetts (modified) target	1
Byran target	1
Rabbeth target	1
Creedmoor target	1
American Decimal target	1

Two clubs requested their votes to be recorded with the one receiving a majority of votes, and not included in the above.

Arlington Heights Rifle Club, Arlington Heights, Mass.; members, 18. Choice, the one designed by Chas. W. Hinman, and illustrated on page 8 of the AUGUST RIFLE. Are willing to adopt any target chosen by the majority of American riflemen, provided the Creedmoor lines are retained as a basis.

CLARENCE T. PARSONS, Sec'y.

Ashburnham Rifle Club, Ashburnham, Mass.; membership, 8. Choice, Hinman target.

F. H. PARKER, Sec'y.

Baldwinsville Rifle Club, Baldwinsville, N.Y.; membership, 15. Choice, the American Decimal target. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

S. C. SHYDAM, Sec'y.

Bellevue Rifle Club, Bellevue, Ky.; membership, 31. Choice, Massachusetts target. Expect to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

CHAR. B. SCHERRER, Sec'y.

Bellevue Rifle Club, Bellevue, Ohio; membership, 9. Choice, Farrow target, on the Creedmoor target.

H. EBERTHAUSER, Sec'y.

Berdan Rifle Corps, Milton, Mass.; membership, 15. Choice, Hinman target, provided it is printed complete or in parts, otherwise the Farrow target. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

M. A. KING, Sec'y.

Bismarck Gun Club, Bismarck, Dakota; membership, 60. Are willing to cast their vote in favor of the target having the majority.

W. H. WILLIAMSON, Vice-Pres't.

Brattleboro Rifle Club, Brattleboro, Vt.; membership, 51. Choice, Farrow target, with an outer 4 x 6 feet.

A. E. KNIGHT, Sec'y.

Canton Rifle Club, Collinsville, Conn.; membership, 10. Choice, Massachusetts target. Not willing to say they will adopt the target chosen by the majority.

J. S. LYON, Sec'y.

Chautauque Sportsmen's Association, Jamestown, N.Y.; membership, 36. Choice, Massachusetts (modified) target. Commencing at the present 12 with 10, and ending with 1; at present 3. Will adopt the largest chosen by the majority.

A. F. WARD, M.D., Sec'y.

Cincinnati Rifle Association, Cincinnati, Ohio; membership, 52. Choice, Massachusetts target. Bull's-eye count 11 and 12. 8 inches in diameter. Prefer the above; but certainly must abide by the

choice of the majority, as we wish to use the standard.

AL. BAUDÉ, Sec'y.

Cocheco Rifle and Gun Club, Dover, N.H.; membership, 15. Choice, Hinman target. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

W. S. BRADLEY, Sec'y.

East Tennessee Rifle Association, Knoxville, Tenn.; membership, 20. Choice, Massachusetts target. Are willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

CHARLES C. HESBARD, Sec'y.

Elgin National Rifle Club, Elgin, Ill.; membership, 44. Choice, Hinman target. We are willing to adopt the target receiving the largest number of votes.

H. A. WYMAN, Sec'y.

Gardner Rifle Club, Gardner, Mass.; membership, 29. Choice, Hinman target. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

G. C. GOODALE, Sec'y.

Haverhill Rifle Club, Haverhill, Mass.; membership, 30. Choice, Rabbeth target. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

J. P. M. GREEN, Sec'y.

Hillside Rifle Club, Waltham, Mass.; membership, 23. First choice, for the Hinman target; second choice, the Farrow target, or one including the Three-Ring or Creedmoor target. Willing to use the target chosen by a majority of American riflemen.

W. H. STONE, Sec'y.

Irish Rifle Club, New Haven, Conn.; membership, 25. Choice, Farrow target, excepting the height. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority if it corresponds to the size of the Creedmoor target, and has lines to correspond with the two, three, and four line, and an eight-inch circle in the black.

P. O'CONNOR, Sec'y.

Lake View Rifle Club, Lake View, Ill.; membership, 36. Choice, Farrow target.

H. C. BRADLEY, Sec'y.

Lawrence Rifle Club, Lawrence, Mass.; membership, 63. Choice, the Hinman target. This club will use target agreed upon, if its use is general.

J. E. SHEPHERD, Sec'y.

Leominster Rifle Club, Leominster, Mass.; membership, 8. Choice, Hinman target. Would recommend that the Creedmoor lines be retained. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

CHARLES A. JOSLIN, Sec'y.

Lockey Rifle Club, Leominster, Mass.; membership, 10. Choice, Hinman target; but would prefer retaining all the Creedmoor lines. Will adopt the target chosen by the majority.

H. R. DAVIS, Sec'y.

Manchester Rifle Association, Manchester, N.H.; membership, 50. Choice, first, Hinman target; second, Rabbeth target. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

A. E. KNOWLTON, Sec'y.

Massachusetts Rifle Association, Boston, Mass.; membership, 177. Choice, Hinman target. Will adopt a target chosen by a majority of votes cast.

JAMES E. LEACH, Sec'y.

Maynard Rifle Club, Chicopee Falls, Mass.; membership, 38. Choice, Hinman target. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

W. S. PAGE, Sec'y.

Merrimac Rifle Club, Merrimac, Mass.; membership, 12. Choice, Hinman target. Will adopt the target chosen by the majority.

F. JUDKINS, Sec'y.

Minneapolis Rifle Club, Minneapolis, Minn.; membership, 25. 1st choice, Hinman target; 2d choice, Rabbeth target. Will not say they will adopt the target chosen by the majority unless it be one of the above named.

C. M. SKINNER, Sec. pro-tem.

Money Creek Rifle Club, Money Creek, Minn.; membership, 12. Choice, Hinman target. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

E. N. BERRY, Sec'y.

Moran Rifle Club, Morantown, Kansas; membership, 10. Choice, first, Hinman; second, Farrow; third, Rabbeth. Will adopt the target chosen by the majority.

C. J. NORTON, Sec'y.

National Rifle Association, New York; membership, 450. Choice, Hinman target, provided the outer ring shall be made to conform to the inner line upon the Creedmoor target.

JOHN S. SHEPHERD, Sec'y.

New York Rifle Club, New York, N.Y.; membership, 42. Choice, Hinman target; 2d choice, Rabbeth target. We advocate an 11-inch bull's-eye. We are willing to adopt the target chosen provided that the Creedmoor lines are retained.

JAMES DUANE, Capt.

Nimrod Rifle Club, Newark, N.J.; membership, 32. Choice, Creedmoor target. Willing to adopt target chosen by the majority.

C. R. BROWN, Sec'y.

Pittsburg Rifle Club, Pittsburg, Pa.; membership, 32. First choice, Hinman target; second choice, Rabbeth target. Will use the target chosen by the majority.

J. B. JONES, Sec'y.

Pontiac Rifle Club, Pontiac, Mich.; membership, 26. Choice is unanimous that a standard target should be adopted, and are willing to accept that designated by the majority.

W. G. ELLIOTT, Sec'y.

Rod and Gun Club, Springfield, Mass.; membership, 45. Choice, Farrow target. Are willing to abide by the decision of the majority of riflemen for a standard target. Our second choice is the Massachusetts target.

T. T. CARTWRIGHT, Sec'y.

Salem Independent Rifle Association, Salem, Mass.; membership, 25. Choice, Hinman target. In all probability will adopt the target chosen by the majority.

C. F. STEELE, Sec'y.

Saratoga Rifle Club, Saratoga, N.Y.; membership, 34. Choice, Hinman target. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

WM. H. GIBBS, Sec'y.

Savannah Rifle Association, Savannah, Ga.; membership, 139. Choice, Bryan target. Do not care to commit themselves to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

JNO. M. BRYAN, Sec'y.

Springfield Shooting and Fishing Club; rifle members, 20. Choice, Farrow target, as described in your issue of September, 1885. Will accept the target chosen by the majority.

E. E. PETERS, Sec'y.

Third Division Rifle Association, Albany, N.Y.; membership, 128. Choice, Farrow target, adding the outer ring and making the target 6 x 4 to correspond to the present Creedmoor. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

WILLIAM E. FITCH, Sec'y.

Topeka Rifle Club, Topeka, Kan.; membership not given. Choice, Hinman target. Willing to adopt the target chosen by the majority.

F. H. MARTIN, Sec'y.

Wheeling Schuetzen Verein, Wheeling, West Va.; membership, 25. 1st choice, Farrow target; 2d choice, Hinman target, with the understanding that we are satisfied with the target the National Rifle Association adopts.

E. S. SCHUEFLER, Sec'y.

Worcester Rifle Association, Worcester, Mass.; membership, 21. Choice, Hinman target. Voted to adopt the target selected by the majority.

M. G. FULLER, Sec'y.

Rest shooting at Walnut Hill



Line drawing is of
D. F. Chase
at M.R.A., 1888

International Matches

Wimbledon, England, 1883

Patches are from the C.W. Hinman Collection on display in the Walnut Hill Museum



C.W. Hinman Medals



1887
SCORE 85
TEAM 1014
RED, WHITE, AND BLUE
RIBBON BRONZE



1889
BRONZE

All are from
Hilton Trophy
Matches
at Creedmoor



1886
SCORE 91
TEAM 1024
RED, WHITE, AND BLUE
RIBBON BRONZE



1888
SCORE 91
TEAM 1046
RED, WHITE, AND BLUE
RIBBON BRONZE



1887
SCORE 90
TEAM 1096
RED, WHITE, AND BLUE
RIBBON BRONZE



1886
SCORE 89
TEAM 1044
RED, WHITE, AND BLUE
RIBBON BRONZE

C.W. Hinman / cont.



BRONZE



GOLD



SEAL MEDAL
BRONZE



EAGLE MEDAL
BRONZE



GOLD



SILVER
DARK BLUE ENAMEL
SHIELD



THIRD SHOT 1902
SILVER



MEMBER BADGE
SILVER



SILVER AND GOLD
LIGHT BLUE RIBBON
ROXBURY CITY GUARD
"IN TIME OF PEACE PREPARE FOR
WAR"



GOLD
FIRST PRIZE INF.
1861-1898
RED AND YELLOW ENAMEL TARGET



C.W. HINMAN
CO-D, 1st REG.
SECOND PRIZE 1884
SILVER AND GOLD
SOLDIERS 1st CLASS



SCHUETZEN
1898
GOLD WITH WHITE ENAMEL TARGET



GOLD
RED RIBBON
WON BY C.W. HINMAN
1885



EIGHTH PRIZE
1901
GOLD WITH WHITE ENAMEL TARGET



BRONZE



GOLD



GOLD
RED ENAMEL



GOLD AND RED
ENAMEL



SEAL MEDAL
GOLD



EAGLE
MEDAL
BRONZE
RED AND
BLACK
RIBBON



BRONZE
1900 - 1901
SHARPSHOOTER
M.V.M.



SILVER
1897- M.V.M.
SHARPSHOOTER



GOLD
RED AND BLACK
ENAMEL



BRONZE



BRONZE



SILVER
BLUE RING; RED, WHITE, AND BLUE
ENAMEL CENTER



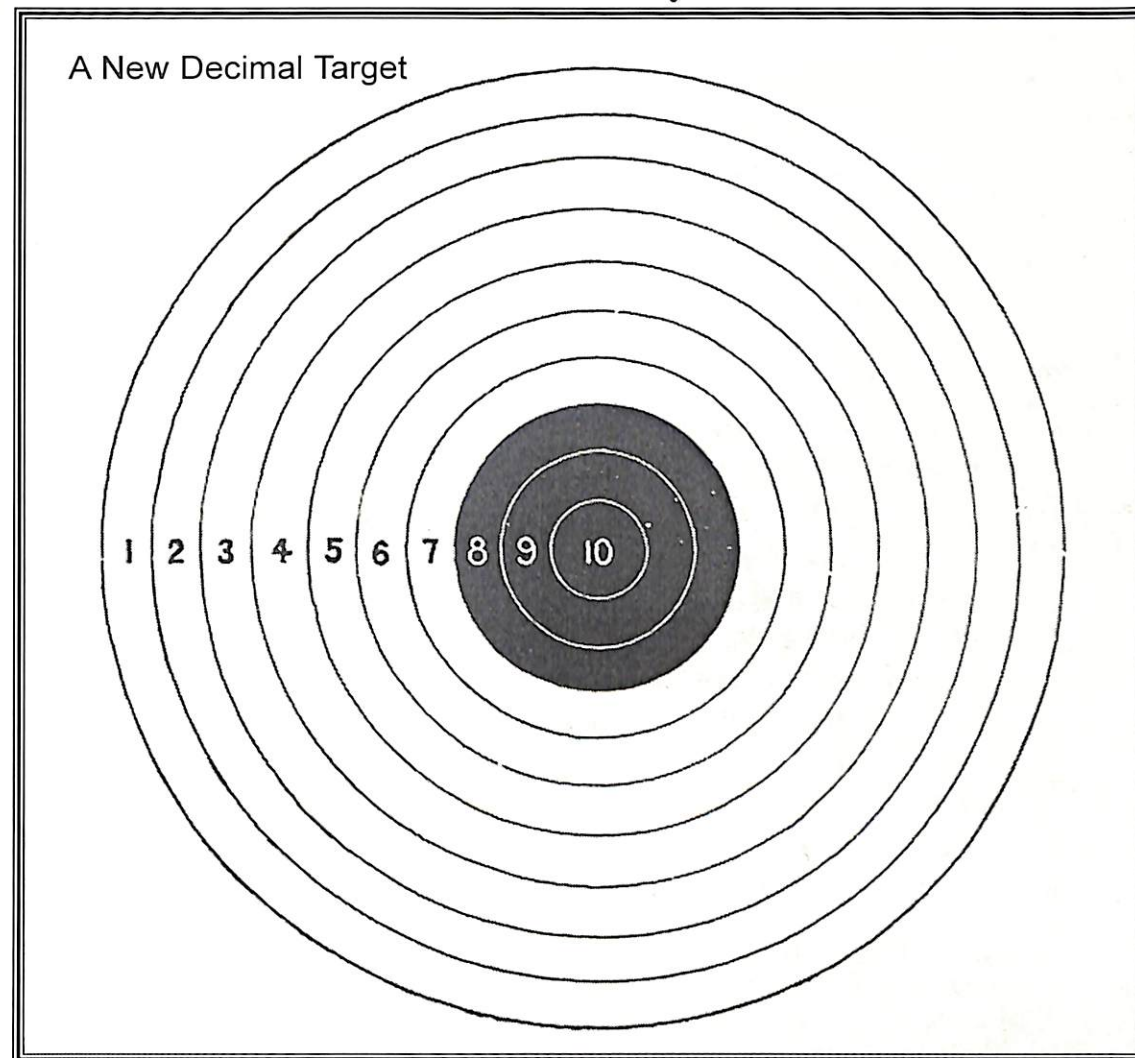
BRONZE AND SILVER
WITH WHITE
ENAMEL TARGET

Lewis Medallion



Lewis Medallion Match. Special military competition, opened Dec. 25, 1885 and closed July 4, 1886. Standard American Target; distance 800 yards; any military rifle with open muzzle-sights. Seven prizes were awarded. The first, a Terracotta Emblematic Medallion presented by Mr. H. A. Lewis, won by Mr. Henry White, 76-77-78-78 = 281 + 27 = 258. Lewis Military Match, Standard American Target. Conditions: 200 yards; position standing; pound 10; any military rifle with open muzzle-sights; entries unlimited at 25 cents each to members; to non-members, 80 cents. Prizes were won on aggregate of each competitor's best five scores. Scores of equal number of points were considered a tie without regard to rank or value of shots, and were decided by the next best score or scores, outside of the five counting scores. Match closed May 1, 1887. Club handicap was used. First and second prizes, a Terracotta Emblematic Medallion, presented by Mr. H. A. Lewis. Won by F. J. Rabbeth, 87-87-86-82 = 427 + 0 = 427, and C. W. Hinman, 89-84-82-80-79 = 414 + 0 = 484. The above match opened Nov. 27, 1886. The Lewis Medallion was described in a list of matches, winter series, 1885-1886, as being 16" in diameter. Harry A. Lewis, the donor, and Henry White, the first winner, lived in Boston and were annual members in the 1885 list. Mr. Lewis became a life member the next year, and in 1888 moved to Philadelphia. He was born in England, and became a member of the M.R.A. in 1883. Mr. White's name does not appear in the list of 1888. Mr. Rabbeth moved to California in 1902. Major Charles W. Hinman continued to live in Massachusetts until his death from a burst appendix. Some time later, his daughter gave to the M.R.A. a box of his medals and a photo of him before she died. The name was lost, and we did not know who he was. I was doing some research on the Walnut Hill Legacy Books and found him in a photo I used in Volume 1; it was like finding a treasure! It makes you feel good to discover some hidden facts on the past history of Walnut Hill. This plaque is one of the three Lewis Medallions. It was found in a Boston antique shop, and was presented to the M.R.A. on Sept. 25, 1938, a gift of Mr. Rudolph J. Thanisch. All plaques in the clubhouse have been refinished by Mrs. Nacky Loeb, now deceased.

Harris Target

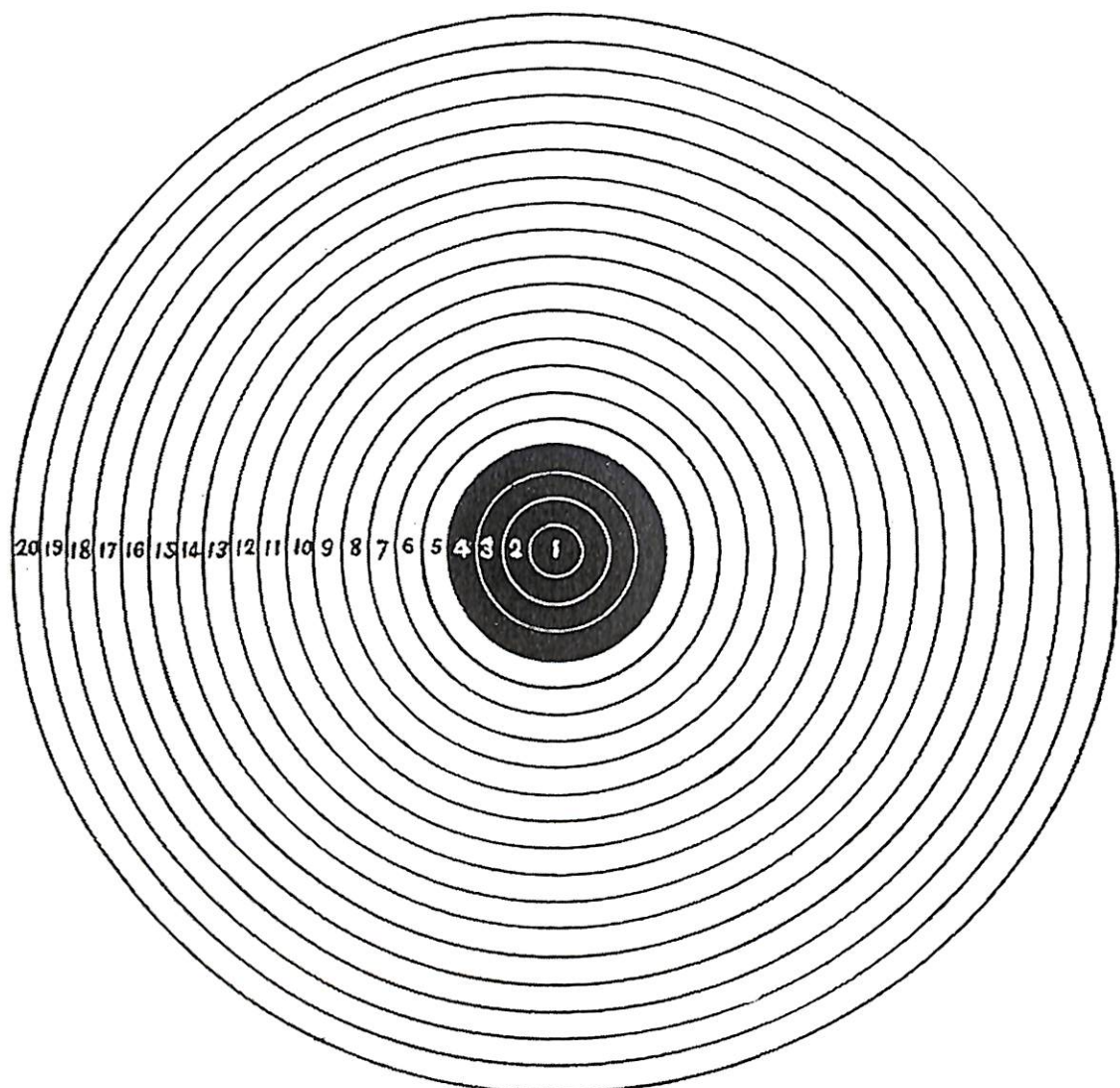


The Rifle, April 17, 1885.

Riflemen throughout this country are beginning to recognize the great importance of a standard target, so that the clubs and shooters everywhere may instantly recognize the exact value of a man's score. A new target has recently been designed by Mr. H.S. Harris, of Boston, which will be illustrated in the next issue of *The Rifle*, and to which the attention of riflemen is invited. The target is made up of a series of rings, counting from one to ten. The rings are 1 1/2 inches apart, with the tenth circle, or centre of the bull's-eye, being 3 inches in diameter, the nine circle, 6 inches, and the eight circle, 9 inches in diameter. These three circles, 8, 9, 10, constitute the bull's-eye, which is 9 inches in diameter; the circles 7 down to 1, are the same distance apart, viz., 1 1/2 inches; the one circle, inside of which the bullet must strike to count, is 30 inches in diameter. It is claimed that upon this target the true percentage of 100 can be obtained, and enable the shooter or other parties to determine almost the exact distance from the centre of the bull's-eye to the place where the bullet strikes.

STRING MEASUREMENT TARGET.

Designed by Charles L. Holmes, Waterbury, Conn.



Measurement of full-sized target: Outer circle, 40 inches in diameter; each additional ring 1 inch apart; smallest ring, 2 inches in diameter.

The Rifle, July 13, 1887.

Mr. J.B. Fellows, in a recent revolver-match, at Walnut Hill, secured an aggregate of 85 points in ten shots, on the Standard American target, with shells loaded with 10 grains of powder and a round ball.

MASSACHUSETTS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Officers for 1889.

PRESIDENT.

L. L. HUBBARD, - - - 142 HUNTINGTON AVE.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

J. B. FELLOWS, - - - 57 HAVERHILL STREET.

N. C. NASH, - - - 54 MASON BUILDING.

SECRETARY.

HENRY S. HARRIS, - - 72 EQUITABLE BUILDING.

TREASURER,

GEO. R. RUSSELL, - - 611 WASHINGTON STREET.

Executive Officer, D. L. F. CHASE.

Statistical Officer, HENRY S. HARRIS.

Directors.

D. L. F. CHASE,

J. A. FRYE.

N. C. NASH,

O. R. DICKEY,

H. S. HARRIS,

J. F. RABBETH,

H. W. EAGER,

C. W. HINMAN,

H. T. ROCKWELL,

J. B. FELLOWS,

L. L. HUBBARD,

G. R. RUSSELL,

J. P. FROST,

W. M. MERRILL,

H. STRATER.

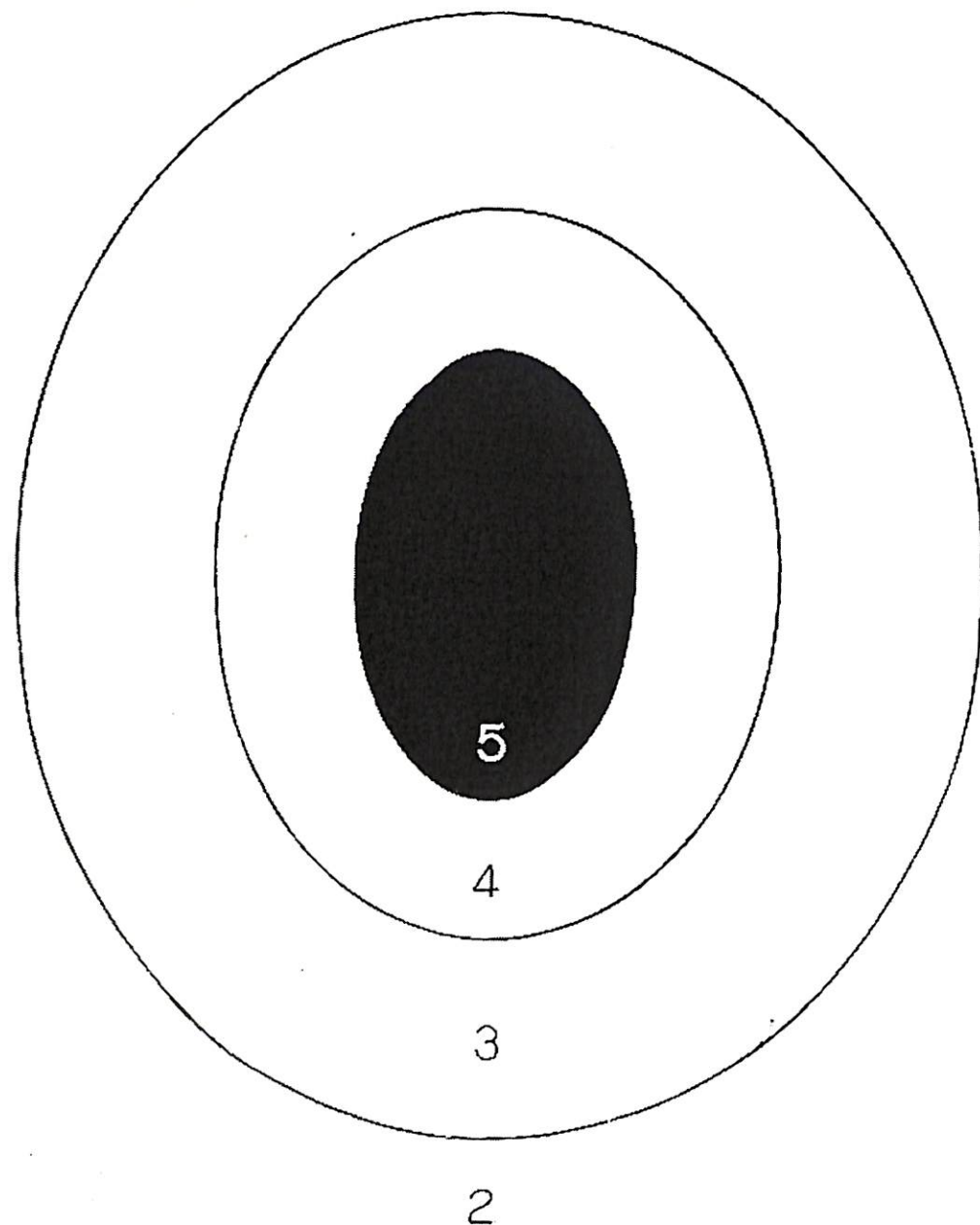
Admission to Membership, \$10.00.

Annual Dues, \$3.00.

Life Membership, \$25.00.

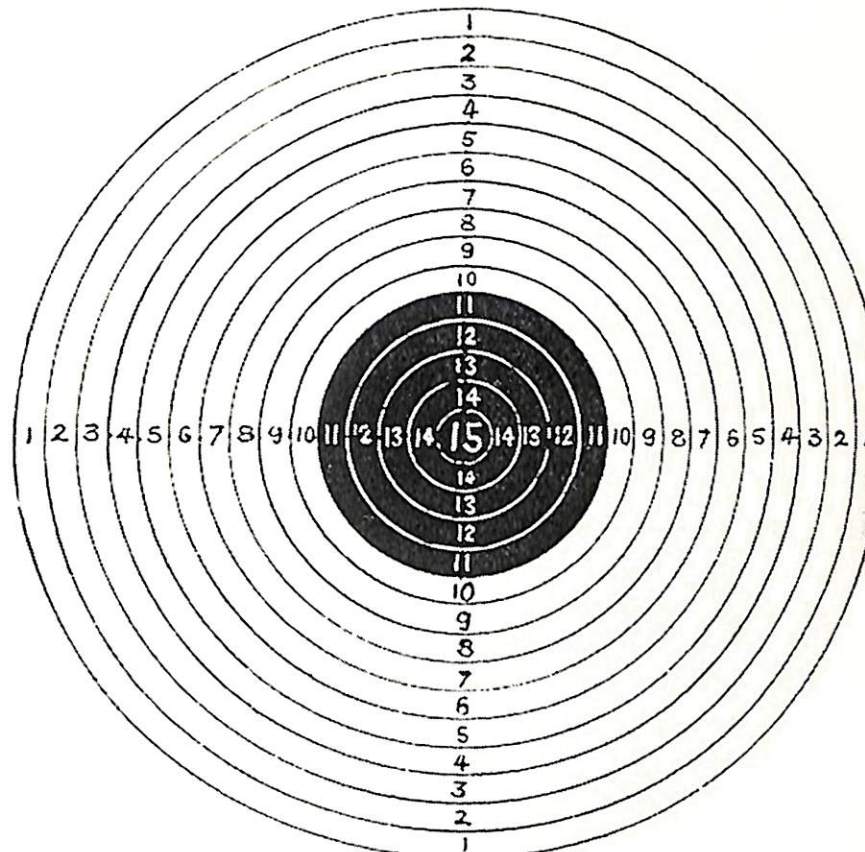
[OVER]

STANDARD AMERICAN TARGET.—20 YARDS PISTOL PRACTICE.



Copyright 1885, by C. W. HINMAN, 84 Canal Street, Boston.
No. 14.

AMERICAN CHAMPION TARGET.



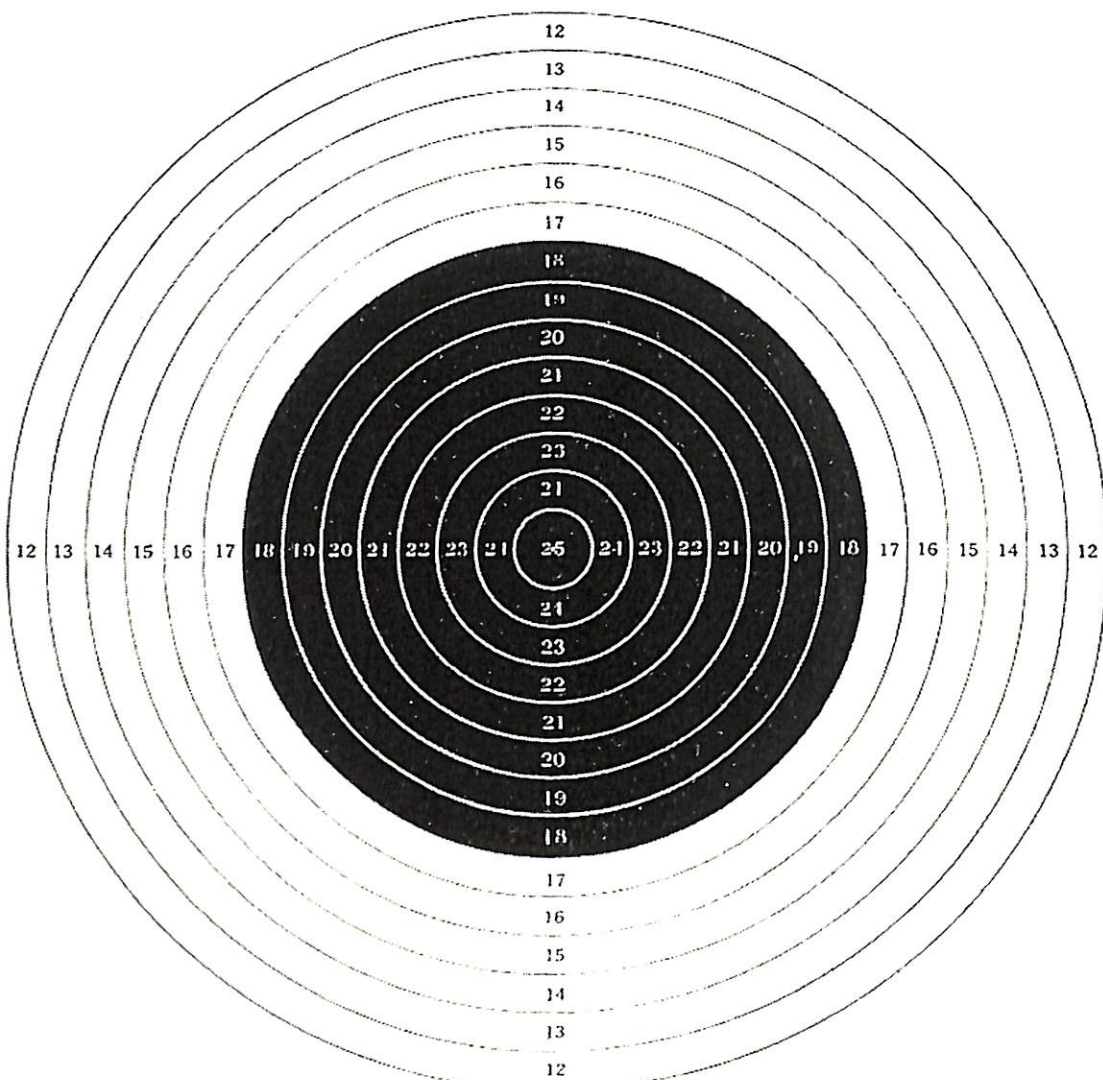
COPYRIGHTED BY WM. HAYES 1888.

The Rifle, March 22, 1888.

The reason for originating this target is simply this: I believe American riflemen have become so proficient with rifles under the N.R.A. rules that they need a target with a finer discrimination than even the Standard gives them, and realizing the fact that an 8-inch bull's-eye is too small, under many circumstances, to sight at readily, and knowing that a 10-inch object to aim at is very satisfactory at 200 yards, I submit this target, trusting it will meet with their approbation. The carton, of two inches diameter, is small enough for the best of rifles, even from a rest, and the circles of one inch space give a shooter a relative value for each shot that a larger division does not give. In fact, it brings the shooting down to approximately string measurement, which undoubtedly is the correct test for all riflshooting. In making this target I do not in any way wish to interfere with the Standard or the Rabbeth Field target, but shooters who have heretofore been using no others.

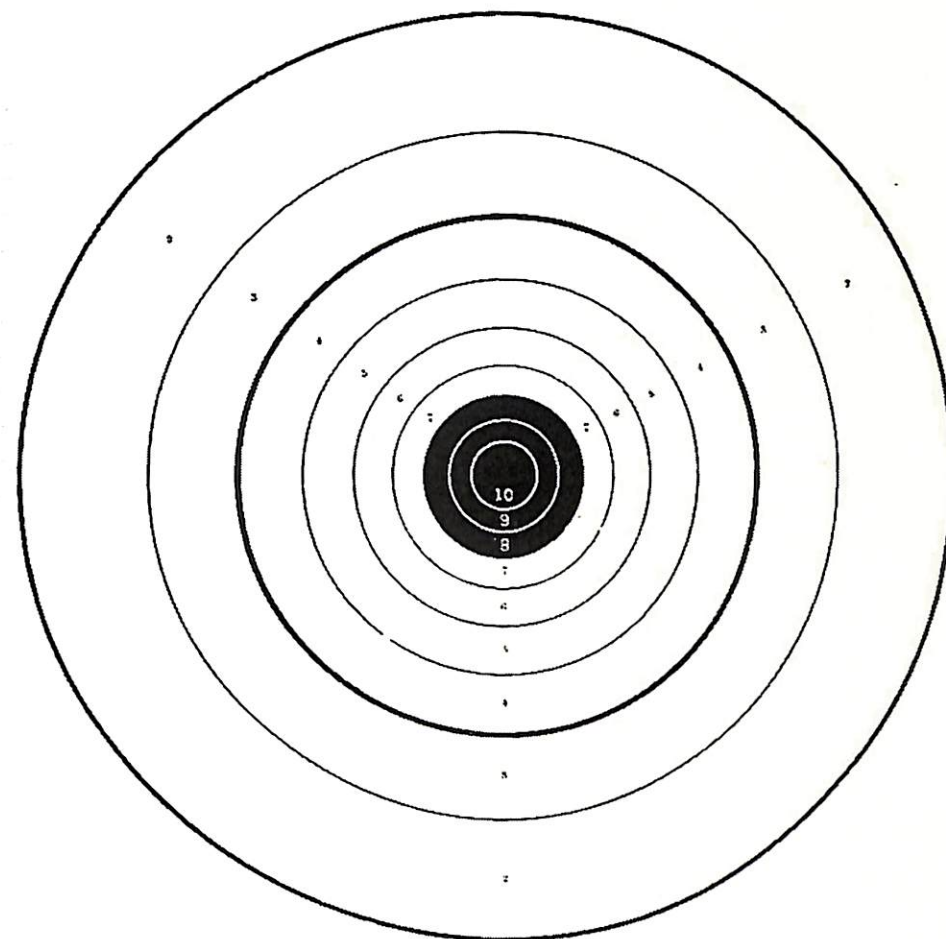
W.M. Hayes.

H. M. POPE OFFHAND CLUB ELECTION DAY

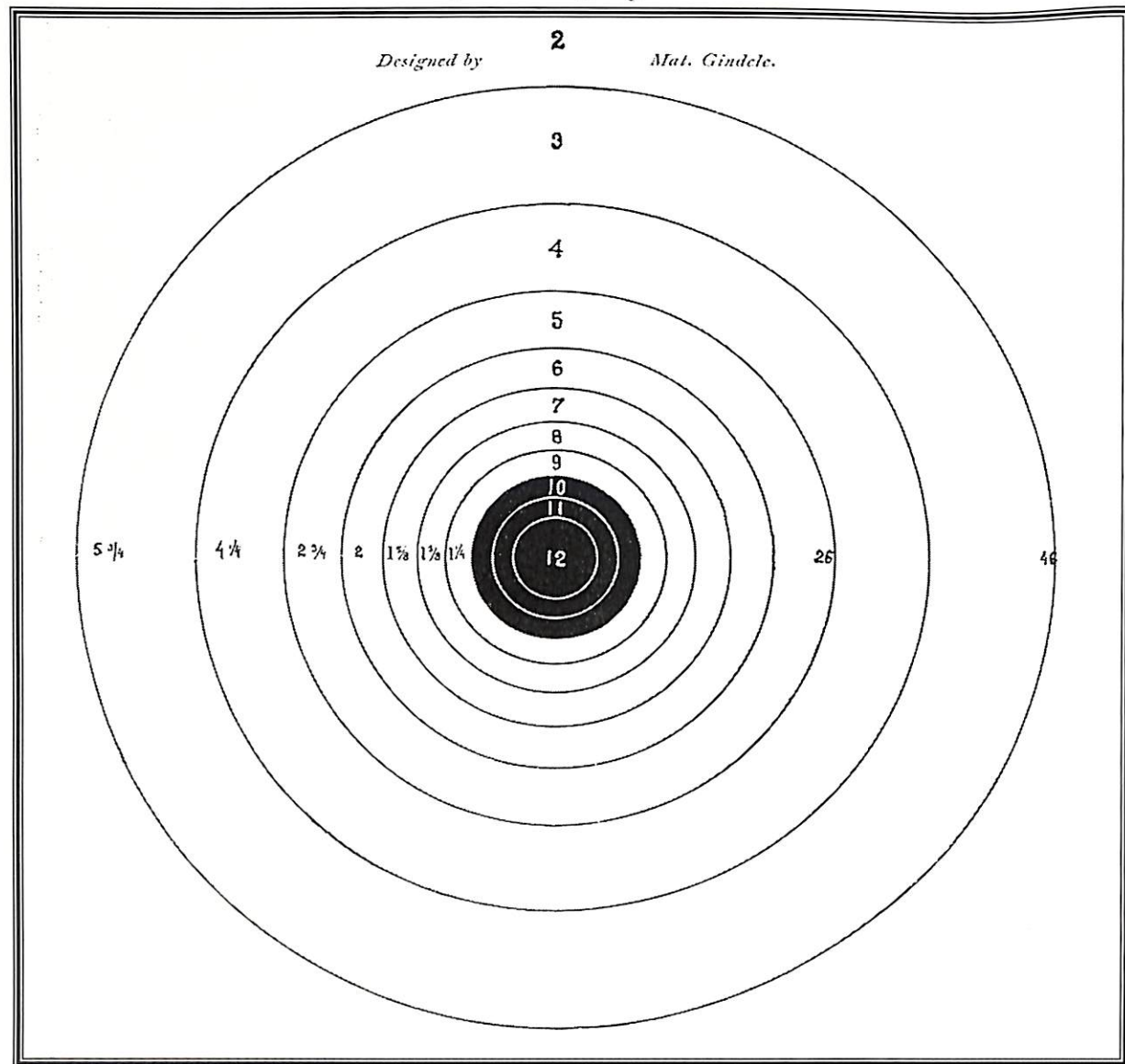


SHOOTER _____

STANDARD AMERICAN TARGET, 50 YDS. RIFLE - 15 YDS. PISTOL PRACTICE



No. 5
STANDARD AMERICAN TARGET
Copyright, 1899, by C. W. Huxton 127 Portland St., Boston, Mass.




The Rifle, October 1885.

The design of the target by Capt. Mat. Gindele, which we published in the present issue, was received at this office several weeks ago, but too late to have engraved for the last issue and to give to Capt. Gindele the credit of this original idea. The target presented by this gentleman in this issue possesses much merit, but unfortunately contains a four-inch inner ring. This size carton would make the target unfit for the expert rest-shooter of to day and the future, as it is admitted, at home and abroad, that 3 1/2 inches is the maximum width of this important circle. Opinion is divided upon the question of whether it should be 3 or 3 1/2 inches in diameter; but it is safe to say that a majority of expert riflemen competent to judge upon this point would say a ring 3 inches in diameter is far better than one measuring 4.



Robert P. Summa

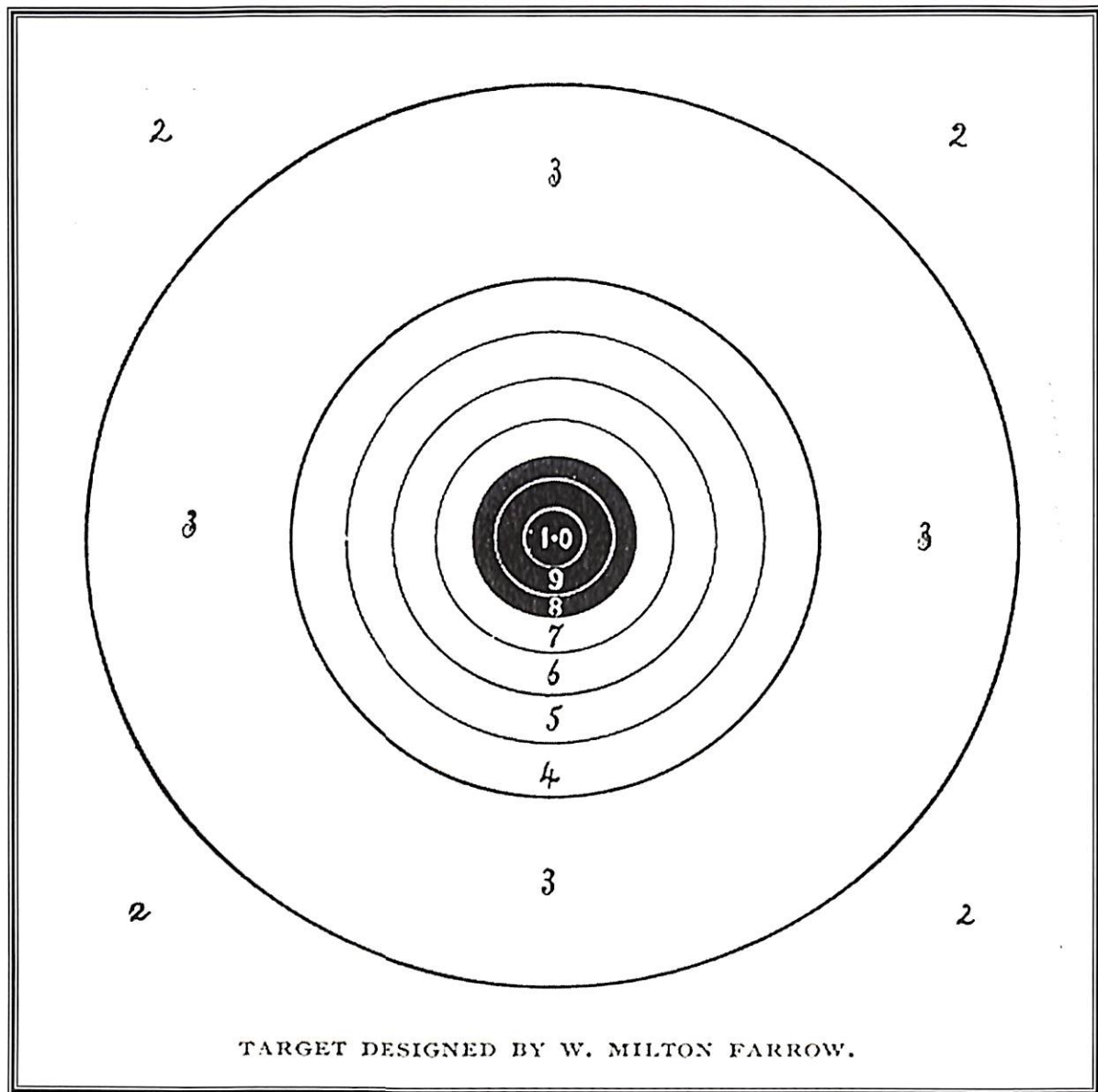


The Adventure of Walnut Hill started the first day I joined the M.R.A. in the early days of the 70's. I have met some great and exciting members of Walnut Hill; the movers and shakers, the trend setters of the shooting sport. I have been a Director, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and President over the years; it has been exciting! I have been writing the Legacy books, and have enjoyed doing it. I have learned a lot in my research of M.R.A.; it is staggering what has happened at Walnut Hill in the past century. What an Adventure! It's like going into the burial chambers of the Great Pyramids of Egypt in my Quest for the knowledge of Walnut Hill. If there is anything you do in your life, read the Walnut Hill Legacy volumes; it will be the greatest story ever told, for we all leave a legacy at Walnut Hill. We are all part of the story of the Hill for future generations to come.

Massachusetts Rifle Past Presidents

1875	Isaac H. Hazelfton	1934-1935	W.S. Gibbons
1876	Horace B. Sargent	1936	R.E. Gibson
1877-1878	Charles A. Longfellow	1937-1939	A.P. Lambert
1879-1880	James N. Frye	1940	John J. Murray
1881-1882	Lucius L. Hubbard	1941	George E. Thompson
1883-1888	Horace T. Rockwell	1942	Walter S. Gibbons
1889-1890	Lucius L. Hubbard	1943-1944	Joseph F. Galligan
1891-1892	Nathaniel C. Nash	1945	John T. Murray
1893	Horace T. Rockwell	1946-1948	Dr. Jose P. Bill
1894-1895	Jabez B. Fellows	1949-1957	Austin McHugh
1896-1897	Francis J. Rabbeth	1958-1959	H.E. Nelson
1898-1908	Daniel L.F. Chase	1960-1964	E.P. Matson
1909-1911	Samuel Merrill	1965	T. Driscoll
1912-1916	Charles W. Hinman	1966-1967	R. Graves
1917	Daniel L.F. Chase	1968-1969	G. Hutchinson
1918-1920	Louis Bell	1969-1976	Arthur R. White
1921-1922	W.E. Fennel	1977-1979	William Buehler
1923	J.E. Kelsey	1980-1982	Arthur R. White
1924	C.G. Bills	1983-1985	Richard T. Boyle
1925	H.H. Bennett	1986	Robert A. Ripley
1926	O.E. Gerrish	1987-1988	Richard T. Boyle
1927	W.S. Darling	1989-1994	Robert P. Summa
1928	F.G. Beckford	1995	Jack Lydon
1929	Dr. H.R. Brunton	1996-1998	Robert Ouellette
1930	F.E. Whipple	1999-2000	Robert P. Summa
1931-1933	R.J. Dwyer	2001-	Charles Trickett

Farrow Target



The Rifle, July 10, 1886.

The Farrow Target, designed by that noted expert rifleman W. Milton Farrow, was a departure from the usual target in that it measured 4' x 4' rather than 4' x 6' and had a red bullseye instead of black, but bullet holes show up more plainly in a red bullseye than in a black one; therefore the change was in the right direction. However, this target was too much like the Creedmoor to be popular with the majority of riflemen.